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DEVOTED TO AGRICULTURE, HORTICULTURE, THE FARM AND THE GARDEN.

AND NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURE.

THE FIRESIDE, RURAL LIFE, LITERATURE, USEFUL ARTS, NEWS, &c.

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Editorial.

THE SIZE OF FARMS IN MASSACHUSETTS.

In a State so densely populated as Massachusetts, the natural conclusion would be that the farms must be very small, or at least that there would be no very large ones, and that the tendency would be to a division rather than a unity of farms, but an examination of the statistics show that there is quite a number of large farms, and what at first thought appears remarkable, the large farms are increasing in number. In 1860 there were in the State no farms containing 1000 or more acres, but in 1870 there were 3, and in 1880 there were 40. In 1860 there were 29 farms that contained 500 acres and under 1000, in 1870, 40; and in 1880, 243. In 1860 there were 6703 farms that contained 100 acres and less than 500, and in 1880, 11,383. In farms of a less number of acres, there has not been a very great change during the last twenty years.

The conclusion to be drawn is, that the tendency is to larger farms, and that too, at a time when it is almost the universal belief that we should cultivate less land, and cultivate it better.

The number of farms in the State that contain 50 acres and not over 100 is 10875; or 1001 less than those containing 100 and not 500 acres; and the number of farms containing 20 acres and not over 50, is but 9632.

In a State like Massachusetts high culture pays better than ordinary culture, therefore we seem to be drifting in the wrong direction, by enlarging, rather than reducing the size of our farms. The desire of the American farmer seems to be to own all the land that adjoins him, whether he wants it for cultivation or not; so when an adjoining farm is sold he will purchase it, if he has to mortgage his old farm to pay for it, thing which he, on no account would do, to raise money to improve his old farm. It would be better for the farmers and for the State, if they would spend their money in making their farms richer, rather than larger; better have a farm of 20 acres thoroughly tilled, than one of 1000 acres that is half tilled, the real income will be more than the large farm, and certainly the satisfaction of having a small well tilled farm, is much more than having a large farm with most of it in its natural state.

EGGS IN WINTER.

While with very little care hens will furnish plenty of eggs during the spring months, it requires not only good care but good quarters to get even a limited number of eggs in the winter months. By good quarters we mean quarters that will secure to the hens the highest physical condition possible.

Writers on poultry have urged so strongly warm winter houses for laying hens that almost every one who has attempted to keep a large number of laying hens during the winter have made the houses too tight and warm, and made them so far from the natural wants of the fowl that the hens lose their health to an extent that prevents them from laying, if they do not die, and the owner wonders what the trouble is, when the fact is they are suffering solely for the want of fresh air. If, when the door of the hen house is opened in the morning, the air smells bad, it is an indication that the house is too tight, or in other words, there are not openings enough to let in the fresh air. A house that is built tight with shingled walls should have a large number of small openings to change the air. As a rule a house is tight enough without having the walls shingled if matched boards are used; if the boards are not matched a narrow strip of board may be nailed over the cracks. When 25 hens are kept in one building not over 15 by 15 feet in size, it will be warm enough even if there are a few cracks left uncovered.

Another mistake is made in building a house half underground or on a side hill where one side is all underground. This creates a dampness that is often fatal to the health of the hens. The house should not only be above ground but it should be located on dry, sandy, or gravelly land, or at least on land that is so thoroughly drained that it will not be wet on the surface but a short time after the rain ceases. Nothing is more productive to disease among fowl than dampness, except confined air, and when the two are combined, as they frequently are, it is not only fatal to the production of eggs, but also to the lives of the hens. Heat and dampness has destroyed the profits of a large per cent. of the new enterprises for the production of eggs in winter.

THE TOBACCO TRADE.

The tobacco trade in Austria, France, Italy and Spain is a government monopoly under the direction of what is called a Regie. This monopoly yields a very large revenue that of France realising the sum of $74,243,478. The commerce is directly and strictly controlled by the several governments, and very severe penalties are inflicted for infractions of the regulations. A curious commentary on this and showing a democratic spirit was the refusal in reply to the effort made by the Province of Quebec to collect a revenue from the French Canadian growers of tobacco who cultivated more than one quarter of an acre of the crop. It was found impossible to collect the tax as the cultivators refused absolutely to pay it claiming they had the right to grow what they pleased upon their own farms and that the tax should be collected upon the manufactured article, or that a business tax be imposed upon traders and this is the plan that has been followed by the Canadian authorities. The Canadian tobacco is abominable stuff being discolored and worse flavored.

"COMMERCIAL FERTILIZERS"

CONTRASTED WITH

"BARNYARD MANURES."

MEETING OF FARMERS

AT THE TOWN HALL,

ROWLEY, ESSEX COUNTY, MASS.,

Wednesday, Dec. 10, 1884.

THE WHOLE QUESTION Thoroughly Discussed

BY SOME OF THE

Leading Farmers of Essex County,

IN WHICH

JAMES J. H. GREGORY

Of Marblehead, Leads Off.

Phonographically Reported expressly for the Mass. Ploughman.

The first of a series of Farmers' Institutes under the auspices of the Essex County Agricultural Society took place at the Town Hall in Rowley, Mass., on Wednesday, Dec. 10th inst. Benjamin L. Ware, of Marblehead, President of the Essex County Agricultural Society, opened the meeting and said:—The subject of this institute is one of vital importance to us all as practical farmers. Although we have had more experience with it than almost any other subject, I believe there is as little real knowledge in reference to the application of manures, in comparison with commercial fertilizers so called, as on any equally important subject of farming. We are are in the dark in very many respects. We don't fully know what is the question when, I believe, is more competent by his education, by his experience and observation to give us more practical information on this subject than my self, and I would first state Gregory, and I may say that without any hesitation, as you readily know to whom I refer, the Hon. J. J. H. Gregory of Marblehead, who is present and whom I am happy to introduce to you.

Address of James J. H. Gregory.

Chairman and Gentlemen:—The subject for today is "Commercial Fertilizers and Barnyard Manures," and especially with reference to the making of formulas for various crops." Your President has given me an embarrassing introduction and I wish I occupied the enviable position he occupies, with his practical knowledge, I have no lecture today. I have had no time to write one, and if I had, I would not prepare a regular lecture on this matter. I thought this would be a good time for us to come together and compare notes as to what progress has been made, and treat of the matter generally. Therefore I have omitted to say anything in general remarks on fertilizers, in what form you can get them cheapest and how to combine them. Most of what I shall say will be under these three heads, and I have hoped to draw out and suggest themselves. In this matter of fertilizers we are very apt to regard the essentials of barnyard manure as one thing and the essentials of artificial fertilizers as another thing, whereas all the value in barnyard manure comes from the fact that it contains a variety of everything else in other. If you take horse manure or cow manure and put in a little water to agitate it and wash it, you will find that it is not all fertilizer. There will be a large residue, if you have not tried or tried it, you will be surprised to find that much of it is nothing more than you can get by chopping up a little straw. Now it is a question whether it is desirable to have all this mass of crude, unnourishing matter mixed up with the fertilizing part. Is it absolutely necessary in order to get good crops to handle all this immense proportion of dead matter? That is also a how it stands in relation to the barnyard manure. There was, years ago, the botanical school of medicine founded by people who did not believe in drugs or in what was found in the apothecaries' shops. They wanted things in their prim itive state. Supposing I thought that in some way getting the herbs with the whole leaves and stock they would get some additional virtue. Now, what did the apothecaries sell them? They sold them as the goodness of the herbs, with all the trash thrown away. Science, intelligence and education took possession of the rough herbs of the field, distilled all that was good and put it in the apothecaries' decanter. Now, in the war against commercial fertilizers is waged on just about the same idea that some way or other there is virtue in 25 to 100 lbs. of ashes, etc., except in some mechanical effects, there is no virtue in respect to the essential things which is not in the fertilizers. It is our misfortune that we lug roots and tops on the field in order to get a few hundred pounds of fertilizers. It is the province of the fertilizer manufacturer to reconcentrate the fertilizers and help by throwing out waste stuff and getting the ingredients in a form that can be conveniently handled. He does not go to the barnyard manure, because he can get the same materials from other cheaper sources. Now, there are peculiar circumstances here. We are in the great manufacturing centre of the United States.

Barnyard Manure.

Probably there is no place on this continent where there are greater facilities for collecting fertilizing material than in this vicinity. We have a great fish port at Gloucester, a great tanning business at Peabody and we have a great lime centre extending up even to Canada. Now in the matter of fertilizers as contrasted with barnyard manure, this is certain, that with the latter we not only feed the crop for the season, but the after crops, especially grass. After we have planted our tillage crop and laid down the land to grass, we have a fine meadow. Now, what is the grass crop. Is that an argument for farmyard manure or not? I should say not, for this reason: What do you manure land for? To get grass on it for corn. You want to have the corn take all the manure possible, but you cannot take it all out. Why is that? Simply because in one season we do not all vegetables. We know that with barnyard manure the plants can take up only a portion of it. It has that peculiarity. Hence a portion goes over to the next year. For you could make it all digestible, nothing would go over. So you have put on more manure than you want to. That is a standard objection to barnyard manure, in favor of using part of it to the next year. Now with commercial fertilizers that objection is made an argument for them. You can arrange for your crop directly without using anything left in the ground. It is plant food in a digestible form. Now the argument is that fertilizing material always has the advantage which is contended for directly with the expectation that the crop will take up all you put in the land. You know its character and don't have to put on large quantities to be sure to get. What barnyard manure about one third is not taken up and it is simply because we can't get it out that we put on an extra quantity. So instead of its being an argument against fertilizers that you get all the virtue out, it is an argument against barnyard manure that you cannot get it all out. With fertilizers you can control the food for another year. But barnyard manure must go over, whether you will or not. In our fertilizers there are three essential things, ammonia, phosphoric acid and potash. If you purchase a part of your fertilizer go over, put on your bone in a coarser form, not so digestible. You can buy it all sorts and sizes if you have a large orchard, eight or ten years ago, I put on bone from Danvers and the coarser fragments I placed about the trees, and to this day the orchard shows every year in a good crop of hay and bears the effect of that bone. I have put on well digested bone also. If you want to have the effect go over, put on the fine portion for the present crop and the coarser for the following and enough will go over for the next crop.

The "Stockbridge" Manure.

The subject is almost an infinite one, it has so many standards. In regard to commercial fertilizers, having spoken in a general way, let us advance a step toward the Stockbridge theory. This, as you well know, is that by analysis they find that the stock of each vegetable has certain elements and combines them in certain proportion, so that, if I feed those elements in the same proportions, I get that crop, increasing them, of the crop wants them. So he makes a formula to apply to almost every crop. Now that, in principle, I endorse. I think that in general it is correct. We all know that certain crops like ashes and thrive on them. Certain crops are especially hungry for ammonia. We know that different crops require different proportions of these elements. Stockbridge carried this theory a good ways and it has since been modified. The difference between a many crops is slight as not to make it worth while to go to the fuss and trouble of making so many sub divisions.

Other Formulas.

BAKER'S, PROF. ATWATER JOHNSON'S, MEIGS' AND OTHERS.

In his later formulas several crops have the same. Of Baker's formulas, thus far cabbage, melons, squash and tomatoes are exactly the same. So with other formulas for beets, celery and lettuce, they are the same. Now, Prof. Atwater Johnson, of the Connecticut experiment station has made an improvement on the Stockbridge formulas in his own way. He established the position that if you are going to work to fertilize your land, you must know what elements it has got in it. Farms are not all alike. A man must study all his fields and find out what the land has not got in it. He must study what it especially needs before applying the fertilizers. What it needs let it have sufficiently. What it is strong in can be deducted from the application. I think it is a very good suggestion. He sent out the formulas of Meigs, Baker, and perhaps more, with advice concerning the methods to be followed, put up in little test bags of phosphate of lime, phosphoric acid, potash and ammonia, so that each man might test his own soil, and see in what it was especially wanting and in what it was strong. He put up the whole for $5, I think. I believe it is a capital thing. What is wanted of these fertilizers? Take these test lots and test your soil, especially if it is soil that has not been cultivated. Test your soil once for all and see what it is especially deficient and strong in. It will save immensely in manuring. Every fertiliser has phosphoric acid, potash and ammonia. Magnesia, soda, iron, silica and so on are found in almost every soil, but these three are essential. But they are not needed in all soils alike. Some soils do not need much potash. Some cannot do anything without it. Potatoes and cabbage cannot do without it. What is the use of taking these formulas if you don't need the potash in them? It may be said that bye and bye the soil will want it. But let bye and bye look out for itself. It is of no use to go on that theory all one generation. When bye and bye comes then can be out on the fertilizer that is wanted. Some fields may get along for a half century without potash. Some want it every year. The beginning of our special study must be by testing the soil. I have tested some of my own and adapted my manuring to it. I found out that my pasture land was weak in phosphates. That is because the sheep, in feeding, throw away in milk and in the bones of the fetus this element, and draw heavily on the phosphates. You will almost always find pasture land deficient there. It was also deficient in potash, and it needed those two more than it needed ammonia.

Leather as a Fertilizer.

Having gone so far as this, the next thing is to buy your fertilizer. In what form can you get that cheapest? We want to get phosphoric acid, potash and ammonia. Now, there are certain things to consider about this. These elements are variously combined. Leather is very rich in ammonia. It has from 11 to 12 per cent. of it. But how can you get it? Therefore you want to find out where it is cheapest, but also where it is most available. Sometimes leather is ground up and sold. It has been put in manures, mixed with fertilizers. But the movement against it was so strong that the people found out that it was for their interest to let it alone. If it was known that a man bought leather and put a millstone about his neck. In its combination, the ammonia in leather is not available. It would want hundreds of cords to an acre. Leather is rich in ammonia and in phosphates, too, but I dropped it and it was cheap enough. I could get it almost for the hauling. But I could not know how much the crops got out of it. Now, if I could buy potash it was excellent, but the ammonia could not be made available, and therefore I dropped it. If I was going to put on that land to grass, the cowpea manure would get that as soon as anything. I don't know as it is in the market now.

Fish as a Fertilizer.

Take phosphoric acid now. Bones are mostly composed of this acid. They contain phosphate of lime, carbonate of lime and gelatin. This knowledge is not wholly recent. My father knew that if bones were placed in a heap the bone bones will decay if they are ploughed upon land and the phosphates will be made available in that war, but the process is very slow generally. The same is true of horns. I well knew a man who went all over his pasture and made heaps of bones, 1000 pounds or more, quite down in them. But for practical use, these have no advantage. Some farmers buy their phosphates from South Carolina. The rock is there and you can get it for $8 to $10 per cent. But it is difficult to extract it. You can't make it easily soluble. It is true that by making it fine and using the sulphuric acid, you can get more phosphate from the rock. No one would want to try it, unless he could get it pretty clear. Now, then, there is the fish in Gloucester, a product of the sea and they sell that home. It is now very cheap. They are rich in phosphates and ammonia. The fish itself is especially rich in ammonia. They have got a surplus there. I got a cartload the other day for $7 a ton. Skins were $3.75 a ton and liver chum on the cars was $4. It is a rich source of ammonia and phosphates. I think that in some cases to be awake about it and see what they can do by their enterprise in that way. If you have got poor manure, this is one of the cheapest ways to put on ammonia. Put a dollar's worth to a cord and you will double your money. For instance, take the chum of fish liver. That is worth, by the analysis in Prof. Goessman's report in 1880, $8.83 a ton. Put it on a number of cords of manure worth about $4 and it will help it very much. Halibut chum is worth $20 a ton, and there is virtue in it both as oil and as guano. Fish chum costing about $24.77, and it was about one third of its value to me. I will tell you how I used fish this fall. I applied it to an orchard of young trees, not as an ammonia dressing. Fish is fiery, lutense. That is because we use it too rich. I bought carloads on carloads of it at $24 a cord. It is not of much use, but in a rough way and burn our crops by it. We want it finer and made more digestible. We would rather buy chum. I have had fish chum that was not offensive to smell. Fish chum has this advantage, that you can knock it about as you want to. I applied it entire. It cost about $8 to manure an acre of onions. It was an excellent form of onion manure, even if it cost $10 a ton. In using fish you will find that you will not get as much phosphate as you expect, and it is because you have not applied it enough. When I was down to Rhode Island a while ago a gentleman took me out to see his land. He had put on some fish which he had got for 60 cents a barrel for his grass land. I was surprised to find that it had but little smell. He kept a boarding house only 300 to 400 feet away, and he said that the fish made no smell after a day or two. He had applied it freely, but it did not smell at all then. I put on fish as a top dressing for ammonia that I thought I was using it I put it on the surface. There is no waste to speak of. I know what has been taught about manuring near the surface. But don't be afraid. People who have tried it are surprised. Plants want the ammonia where they can reach it easily. Corn is hungry for ammonia.

The Use of Bones.

Next we come to bones, having taken fish for ammonia. Bones have a large proportion of phosphoric acid. Ames here in Peabody gives the cheapest sort of phosphates of any man I know. His material is made from old horses and cows which he collects. He handles from 400 to 600 a year, and the material is ruined at from $42 to $47 a ton, but costs $35. That is our cheapest source of bone material, or, rather, it is the cheapest source that I know of. The Carolina rock is another cheap source of phosphoric acid. It is sold to dealers to be ground up. It is used by Bradley and Baker. Dr. Nichols in an interesting "barnyard" lecture years ago, gave a formula for using it. With every 475 pounds of ground rock he used 10 gallons of water and one carbon of sulphuric acid. Have a large trough with a lead lining, he said. I did not line

tilizer because you have put on too much. That is where the weak spot is in barnyard manure. Large quantities of it will have been wasted at the end of ten years. With commercial fertilizers you take off most of what you put in. Each year's crop does about as well as another. At the end of ten years you have not lost more than half as much as by barnyard manure.

The Endurance of Fertilizers.

The question has been asked as to the endurance of fertilizers. They have been used in some places 30 or 40 years, and the land is better than at the start. As bread, meat and butter are essential food and people want them every day, so crops want commercial fertilizers every year. Now can the land, then, be exhausted? I use all the barnyard manure I make and shall buy more, but I buy less and less every year. But when you say a man should buy all he can instead of fertilizers, that is wrong. I use fertilizers because I can save my money. In regard to these formulas, you can get them by writing to Baker & Brothers, Pearl street, New York city, dealers in fertilizers. Ask for their pamphlet. You will get the formulas I have worked on. Get your ammonia, potash and phosphates as cheap as you can. Amos makes fertilizers from cold cows and horses. I keep hens, and this matter is in good food for them. He is cutting up these animals and they go a good ways in making eggs and poultry. In France and Germany horses which are likely to be past middle age are used for human food. That is all wasted here. Years ago I cut up a dead horse and fed it all winter long to my eight hens. I had an average of six eggs a day all winter. The meat did it. It a man thinks this is dirty let him follow a hen and see what she eats. She will never once eat anything as clean as horse meat.

Now, about fertilizer, don't let us discuss things that are settled. We might as well discuss the advisability of wearing old wooden shoes. We have got beyond that. It is settled that fertilizers are useful. They may not be on some farms, but it is settled that they are very cheap on others. We have got beyond these questions. It is now the question whether these fertilizers are better than manure. That they are cheaper than manure is settled beyond doubt. The point is, how this applies to your own land.

Mr. MARSH of Peabody.—If fertil zer is cheaper, why not use fertilizer altogether?

Mr. GREGORY.—My crops are very rank and tax my land severely. I have hesitated about raising crops on mere fertilizers. My 13 acres of onions were on fertilizer this year. So was my corn. I use manure only in such cases when I want something to remain in the land. Next year you will find no fertilizer on my corn or onions. I have used 100 cords of manure a year and 40 to 50 tons of fertil zer. I am working with less manure and more fertilizer.

Mr. T. C. THURLOW—In Newburyport at the comb and brush factories bone dust can be bought by the ton. What is its value for fertilizer?

Mr. GREGORY—It is exceedingly rich in ammonia. "Hartshorn," you know, is one name for ammonia. The second of ammonia in this form is high. It would not pay to buy it. It is difficult for you to get it out. The question is, how far can you figure on it for each crop?

QUESTION—I want to know about the value of hen manure, and also how many crops can be raised from one application of barnyard manure.

Mr. GREGORY—I used to use 75 barrels of hen manure a year. It is clogy and sticky. It goes far. It cost 75 cents a barrel. If you have it on your premises keep using it, but standard guano is a good deal cheaper if you have to buy. As to the yield from it, it depends a good deal on the crop and how much you manure it.

Nitrogen from Leather Scraps.

The CHAIRMAN—I want to make a statement as a member of the State Board of Agriculture. Nitrogen has been mentioned. Now, many dealers in commercial fertilizers get nitrogen from old leather scraps. According to the tests we are required to indicate the proportion of phosphoric acid, nitrogen and so on. Now, they can get nitrogen from the old leather scraps that will stand the chemical test. But nitrogen from such scraps is entirely insoluble and therefore is not plant food. It is almost valueless for a fertilizer, although chemical analysis shows that it is in accordance with the law. So the State Board at its last session passed a rule that every commercial fertilizer manufacturer should indicate to the secretary of the Board from what source he got his nitrogen. If it is from leather the buyers—the farmers—will not buy that fertilizer. I would call upon Mr. THURLOW to notify us in the time. He has had a great deal of experience.

Mr. THURLOW.—I want to make one motion. Mr. Gregory is a generous man. I want him to get something like the forenoon lecture printed in pamphlet form by the society, each member can have a copy. We know that he is a successful farmer. If he had been praising these fertilizers to sell them or had been a dealer, we should not have paid him so much attention. I have looked his place over twice and I wish everyone might look it over as I have. He had his acres of cabbages in one lot. Every one had a perfect head. There was not one that was not perfect. The onions were not as large as some others, but they were all as perfect as if they had been run in the mould. He made the express purpose of raising a perfect onion. I wish he might be induced to prepare a pamphlet. It would be very pleasant. I would like to see a large edition published at the expense of the society and I make that as a motion.

The CHAIRMAN.—This is a very important matter. Before the question is put, however, I want to make an explanation. I was not aware we had this subject up for discussion. Mr. Gregory opened it with much success. We were in Mossy Meadow. Everyone said he ought to have a printed copy and we urged Mr. Gregory to furnish it. Perhaps all of you don't know as well as I do how thoroughly occupied he is. He had promised to furnish it. But he never found an opportunity to prepare it. I expected the same. Inquiry would be made today and I have made an effort to have this discussion phonographically reported. It will be published in the *Ploughman* next Saturday, but it will not be in pamphlet form for distribution by our society. But that does not meet the motion. If Mr. Gregory will prepare a pamphlet for us, it will have a cordial reception.

Mr. GREGORY.—I am sure I would be glad to devote my time in behalf of the ESSEX society, as has been demonstrated by my holding these meetings up and taking part in them, because my time is precious. But I hate, above all things, to write. I would rather work on a stone wall. I use notes and pick out my matter from them and talk it over. Sometimes I write articles or little pamphlets. I would as soon do it for you as for any other one and if I should have leisure I will consider it. But I am so overworked that my system requires rest. But if I should have leisure, I will certainly have it in mind.

A LISTENER.—I hope that Mr. Gregory will in some way comply with the request. Years ago Dr. Nichols gave a barnyard lecture partly in this subject. It was published in pamphlet form and was largely called for and read. This subject would be worth paying for. I hope Mr. Gregory will be led to consider so that no dollar nothing. The farmers here would be willing to pay for their copies after the work is done. The pay ought to come out of us. We ought to be willing to pay somebody for looking after his work while he is busy on this.

The CHAIRMAN.—No living man can do Mr. Gregory's work. If he can do it he will, and money is no object. Now we have had all this discussion. But the question has not been put. I feel sure that if Mr. Gregory can find time he will be very glad to prepare his lecture, but I know how thoroughly occupied he is and the difficulty he had to prepare for this occasion. He has come here to-day at a great sacrifice. His catalogue is nearly ready to come out. I mention these facts to show how much his time is occupied. But I think he will do it if he can. Those in favor of the motion inviting Mr. Gregory to prepare the substance of the lecture this morning for publication by this Society will manifest it by raising the hand. [After the show of hands.] It is a unanimous vote. The business of the morning has been phonographically reported and will be published in the *Ploughman*, I suppose, this week, and it will not be published in pamphlet form.

[After further brief discussion, Mr. Gregory, the chairman and others were obliged to take the afternoon train for Boston, leaving the Rowley Farmers' Club, after formally tendering thanks to the chairman, to continue the discussion under the lead of Mr. Todd, the president.]

THE FAST-WALKING HORSE.

[National Live-Stock Journal, Chicago.]

The writer has spent considerable time recently in examining the catalogues of the various county and State Fairs of the West, for the purpose of ascertaining how much encouragement, in the way of premiums, is offered for that most valuable of gaits, the fast-walking movement. Strange to say, the fast-walking horse is almost entirely ignored. Generous premiums are given to trotting, running, saddle, and to even the recently despised pacing horses; but the improvement of the walking gait is rarely rewarded. The mania for the trotting action has spread from the horse centres of New York and Kentucky to every county and State in the Union. The teamster dotes upon the trotting speed of one or more of his draft horses; the ploughman dilates upon the trotting action of his plough horse, the dealer in coach horses boasts of their trotting movement, and even importers of Clydesdales and Percherons or Normans boast of their superior trotting action. The fast-walking capacity is now rarely mentioned as a merit of any of these grades of horses, and yet the habit of fast walking means volumes of praise in favor of the horse thus gifted. It is the foundation of superiority in all other gaits. The horse that can walk rapidly, and keep it up over hill and valley, brings his journey to an end quicker than if he trots rapidly and walks slowly. He will accomplish a long line of travel, either to the draft or pleasure wagon, with less fatigue to himself, and less weariness to his driver, than any other horse. If the horse has the capacity to walk fast, he has the earnest of ambition to speed fast in his more rapid movements. The fast runner, the rapid trotter, the active draft horse is proverbially the fast walking horse. The counterfeit in all these grades is the slow, droning, creeping, walking horse. The fast walk is therefore, the foundation of all horse excellence. It should be generously encouraged by all our agricultural and fair associations. Purchasers should insist upon it as a necessary qualification, and it should be the aim of every breeder to have his colts broken, first, to a clean, square, rapid walk. This would insure an economy of time beyond the most sanguine expectation; and equally with the economy of time would be the saving of the whip-lash, the patience of the driver, and the cruel destruction of horse flesh.

— Prof. Manley Miles claims that he can make washed wool weigh more than unwashed. Wash the sheep, put them in a warm stable and keep them over night, and there will oil enough exude from the sheep into the wool to weigh more than the dirt.

The Ploughman.

BOSTON, SATURDAY, DEC. 20, 1884.

☞ *Persons desiring a change in the address of their paper must state where the paper has been sent as well as the new direction.*

☞ There will be a *Farmers' Institute* at the Hall of the New England Agricultural Society, *Ploughman* Building, 45 Milk Street, Boston, on Saturday, December 20th, inst., at 10 o'clock, A. M. Subject, "*The Hay Crop.*" Hon. Warren Brown, President of the New Hampshire State Agricultural Society, will lead off in the discussion.

☞ The Saturday meeting of representative and practical farmers in the Hall of the *Ploughman* Building that is to be held on Saturday of the current week will discuss "*The Hay Crop,*" a subject second to no other in importance for the farmers of New England. Hon. Warren Brown, President of the New Hampshire State Agricultural Society, will read a paper specially prepared for the occasion and lead in the discussion that will follow. Farmers are solicited to send in samples of grasses of their own growth, to make as great a variety as possible from which to form instructive comparisons of general or specific value. The Hay Crop concerns the prosperity of every farmer, for it forms his main stay in carrying his stock profitably through the winter to pasturing time again. The discussion will be reported verbatim for the benefit of all farmers who cannot be present, as well as for the satisfaction of those who are. These Saturday meetings, we are widely assured, are doing a great deal of good already, exciting unusual interest among those for whose benefit they are held, and holding out substantial promises for the future. All are cordially invited to be present. The time cannot be more profitably spent in any other way.

Col. Marshall P. Wilder, President of the American Pomological Society, writes to the *Ploughman* to state through its columns to the public that he has appointed the Officers and Committees of the Society who are to be its delegates and representatives to the World's Exposition at New Orleans.

OUR PHONOGRAPHIC REPORTS.

The full and accurate phonographic reports of the Saturday meetings in the *Ploughman* Building are read everywhere with expressions of sincerest satisfaction. It is a competent and ready hand that gives of these popular discussions of the farmers in this form to the public. They are verbatim copies of the different speakers' expressed views. We conceive it to be a matter of great value to the farmers who read them when published in the columns of the *Ploughman*. Such reports personify speak, and it thus becomes of increased interest. When one reads what somebody whom he knows or has frequently heard of has to say on a subject in which he is equally interested with the speaker, it lends animation to opinions and experiences, and leaves a very different impression from the reading of the very same views when expressed in an impersonal article. Men exert a very different kind of influence when speaking from that which they exert when somebody else speaks for them, or, in other words, when they speak by report only. Our phonographic reports of these Saturday meetings, we need not add, will continue to be as accurate and interesting as they have been, and cannot fail to attract a rapidly increasing number of eagerly interested readers.

A more hopeful feeling among the iron manufacturers in different parts of the country is recorded.

The Bonapartists are holding banquets in Paris, at which is openly proclaimed their purpose to get up a public sentiment in favor of making Prince Napoleon the head of the government of France.

An attempt was made on Saturday last to blow up London Bridge with dynamite. Fortunately, no one was injured, but many windows in the vicinity of the explosion were shattered. Thus far there is no clue to the perpetrators of the outrage.

WHAT CONGRESS IS DOING.

During the present short session of Congress but little business is expected to be done. A number of important measures, such as the bill to stop the coinage of silver dollars, and the inter-State commercial bill, have been introduced, but even if anything is done about them it will not be until after the holidays, for which both houses will adjourn on Tuesday next for a vacation to January 5th. The coinage bill introduced in the Senate directs the suspension of the coinage of the silver dollar, forbids the reissue and printing of United States notes of a less denomination than $5, and authorizes the Secretary of the Treasury to issue to depositors of silver bullion silver certificates having on their face the weight and value of the deposited metal, calculated in United States gold dollars, at the rate of 25 8-10 standard grains to the dollar. Every certificate to be redeemed in silver bullion when presented by a legal holder. A resolution has been passed in the Senate to investigate leases made by Indian tribes of lands in the Indian Territory and the Indian reservations. The House has passed a bill making temporary provision for the naval service. The total appropriation for the navy for the current fiscal year is $15,636,166, which is a reduction of over a quarter of a million of the appropriation for the previous year.

In the matter of the inter-State commercial bill, the passage of remedial statutes was advocated, and the establishment of an inte-State commission, to see that such statutes were obeyed. The new Spanish reciprocity treaties provoke the most discussion, as well as the most feeling, for the time. The sentiment of the business community appears to be unequivocally hostile to them. The treaty with respect to the Spanish West Indies means, according to Minister Foster's admission, free sugar from all sources, based on treaties to be negotiated with other sugar producing countries. The direct loss to the revenue in consequence is figured at about $50,000,000, which naturally compels a pause. In comparison with so great a loss of revenue the benefits to the United States to be derived from extension of trade are accounted very small. It is insisted that more substantial advantages shall be secured in return. Secretary Frelinghuysen has presented a summary of the reasons for the negotiations of the treaty. They briefly claim that it will secure an extension of trade relations with the countries lying close to our doors, and whose ports are now sealed against us. The Secretary asserts that the loss of revenue from sugar and tobacco harmonizes with the policy which placed coffee and similar products on the free list. He believes a commercial movement toward the Antilles must begin from our shores, which will knit more closely the nations of this continent while affording a market for our surplus products.

The Nicaragua treaty is, perhaps, exciting more discussion than the Spanish-American reciprocity treaties. It has been truly said that it brings the Monroe doctrine to a head; in other words, it promises to search out the real meaning of the famous term, "manifest destiny." Its discussion involves that of the Clayton-Bulwer treaty, by which both the United States and the British Government agreed not to exercise dominion over any part of Central America. Our Government has already notified Great Britain that the treaty has been broken by its action in reference to the Mosquito Coast, which is a region of Nicaragua. The British Government replies that it regards the Clayton-Bulwer treaty as still binding on both parties. But that is not likely to make much difference with the Senate, which will doubtless avail itself of any reasonable ground to abrogate the treaty and obtain a coveted footing in Central America. It is generally held that there are reasons enough for abrogating the Clayton-Bulwer treaty. But it is not maintained that the proper way for us to abrogate that treaty is by secretly making another treaty with Nicaragua. Things have changed wonderfully, for Great Britain as well as the United States in the last thirty years, and it would not be such a difficult matter for us to take new and broader ground on the whole subject.

The city government of Boston was invited to send a congratulatory despatch to the White House on the occasion of the formal opening of the New Orleans Exposition by electricity by the President, on Tuesday last.

Not only was General Gordon well at last accounts, but he had recently administered to the rebels another severe defeat, killing a large number of them and blowing up a number of their forts.

Several of the ocean-crossing steamer companies talk of furnishing meals to passengers on the European plan when the season for foreign travel shall have opened again. So much will be charged for the passage, and meals will be furnished on the restaurant plan.

The reports of corn being used as a substitute for fuel in Kansas, Nebraska and Colorado on account of its greater cheapness than coal, are corroborated by letters received at the East. Tens of thousands of bushels have been burned already, and much more will be.

The reports of the Secretary of the Treasury and Comptroller of the currency, and the annual message of the President, concur in urging prompt legislation to prevent the threatened further contraction of bank note currency. The two measures relating to the matter which are now pending in Congress are known as the McPherson bill and the Potter refunding bill.

Under the treaty with Nicaragua, the United States proposes to add to its domain a strip of territory six miles wide, running through the heart of Nicaragua, and, with this acquisition, it is presumed, to assume all the customary duties and functions of a sovereign in respect to the territory and its inhabitants.

The next and approaching presidential election in France bids fair to be almost as exciting as the one which has been passed through in the United States. President Grevy is constitutionally eligible for re election, and is more than willing to have a second term. But a strong anti Grevy campaign has already been organized in Paris.

The Springfield Union offers the following timely and kindly suggestions: "Supposing Congress should stop after school, some night before Christmas, and arrange for a carload or two of food and clothing for the starving Piegan Indians. If the nation's wards must be exterminated, we think the country would prefer that it should be done in a more expeditious way than by cheating them out of their dues and allowing them to perish from hunger and nakedness."

Prince Bismarck made a passionately earnest appeal to the German Reichstag last Monday, telling the house that it refused to pass the vote, he desired it would thereby pronounce him ignorant or incapable, and to do this would subutter his declining years. Nevertheless, the house recorded a hostile majority of twenty two. A crisis in his course is naturally expected to follow. If he yields, it has been truly said that his action lays the foundation of a governmen of the empire by a responsible ministry.

— Of cattle, England only keeps one head to every fifty two acres; Ireland has one head to every four acres and the island of Jersey one to every two acres.

— Hungarian millers are working hard to introduce their flour into Holland.

— The number of deer in the northern part of Maine is increasing; so are the wolves.

— There has been a large crop of grapes this autumn, which have sold cheap.

— A fence in Indian Territory and New Mexico is 200 miles long.

— There is a difference of opinion whether it is best to churn whole milk or not.

— Baldwins are the favorite apple trees in New Hampshire.

— Honey raising is a prosperous French industry. 1,971,865 hives are in operation and the value of the honey and wax surplus is $5,000,000.

— The N. Y. Produce Exchange handles seventy five per cent of the exports from this country and the money value of the legitimate transactions is fully $10,000,000 a day.

— There are 7,603,000 farmers in the United States.

— Within the past ten years a very significan revolution has been going on in the French wine trade. The latest official returns clearly show that France now drinks considerably more wine than she produces.

READ AND RUN.

— Dion Boucicault is acting at the Boston Museum this week, after an absence of two years.

— New York is preparing to take a new decennial State census.

— The Liberty statue pedestal promoters in New York have finally come to the conclusion that the way to raise the needed $150,000 is to do it among themselves. The statue itself will soon be here.

— At Victoria, British Columbia, an immense amount of building and other city improvements are under way, it being estimated that $1,000,000 will be spent in private residences and stores next year.

— German and English officers are said to be prominent in command of the Chinese iron clads, and against them any inferior and unarmored French ships would stand but a small chance of escape.

— It has become an established fact in our day that mental heredity is just as true as physical heredity.

— Crowds are now moving southward to the New Orleans Exposition. For some days past unprecedented carloads of passengers have been deposited in that city of winter roses and balmy airs. The President started the machinery of the Exposition by electricity in Washington on Tuesday noon, and currents of cordial congratulations are flowing from every State.

— The London theatres are strongly protested against for their insufficient protection against fire. At least 300,000 people attend the London theatres nightly, and many of them are overcrowded.

— By far the largest single tribe of Indians in this country are the Sioux, or Dakotas, and they have likewise been the most warlike. For sixteen years they waged constant war with our troops.

— A decrease in message rates to Europe is indicated by the completion of the Bennett-Mackay cable.

— A fresh Egyptian crisis will add seriously to the perplexities of the English foreign office. The project to restore Ismail to the throne, which is credited to Prince Bismarck, is directly antagonistic to English policy.

— There was a fearful loss of life among the colored cysiermen of the Rappahannock River in a gale last week. Three canoes with seven men are said to have been sunk near the mouth of the river, and the men were drowned. Others are believed to have lost their lives in the severe storm.

— The acceptance by Congress of the Nicaragua treaty will be considered the first step toward the building of the canal. When the first shovelful of earth is moved in that enterprise, it will be regarded as notice that the United States proposes to allow no foreign power to control the Isthmus, and the canal itself will practically mean the southern boundary of the United States, and reestablish once more the determination of this country to adhere to the Monroe doctrine. A long debate on the treaty in the Senate is expected, with a strong prospect of its adoption.

— Father O'Brien, son of Mayor-elect O'Brien of Boston, will be asked to make the prayer on inauguration day at City Hall.

— The poet Whittier observed his 77th birthday at his home at Oak Knoll, on Wednesday.

— Dr Sargent, of the Harvard Gymnasium, lectured on Monday on "The Evils of the Professional Tendency of Modern Athletics."

— The Lord Chief Justice of England has suffered a good deal in reputation by reason of the recent developments in the suit brought against his son by the London barrister who wanted to marry Miss Coleridge.

— Some of the newspapers, in view of the coming inauguration ball, are lamenting that we have no national dance.

— The New York Sun exclaims at the end of an article—"What a good, wicked, interesting world it is!"

— In Washington Territory, church property is hereafter to be taxed.

— In a Louisiana prison a father and son are under sentence of death for separate and distinct murders.

— The number of Eastern men of means who are looking for vine and fruit land in Southern California is said to be double the average.

— Rev. Robert Collyersaid in a recent sermon that one of the chiefest rights of children is, that their health should be so guarded by their parents they should grow up strong.

— The plain facts are apparent that France is today apparently bent on a prolonged war of conquest in the East. That Russia has many reasons for wishing to join in it, and that Coren, the spot of all others which Russia is believed to covet on the Pacific coast, is now in a state of anarchy.

— The will of Reuben R. Springer of Cincinnati, recently deceased, disposes of an estate aggregating $3,000,000, a large portion of which is given to associations.

— The Western Union Telegraphers in the South are unitedly resisting the command for the extra hours of labor required of them.

— The new treaty with Nicaragua cedes two ports and a strip of country six miles wide to the United States.

— A strike among the mill operatives in Providence, R. I., is going on.

— The Coreans are reported to have rebelled, the king is reported to have fled, and his son and six of his ministers are reported to have been massacred.

— The proposition on which Bismarck sus, tained so signal a defeat in the Reichstag last Monday was one to create a second dictatorship in the ministry for foreign affairs.

— The silver question has been vigorously debated in the Senate this week.

— Prof. Edmund W. Gosse, of Cambridge University, England, lectured on Monday evening at Sanders Theatre, Harvard College, on the poet Thomas Gray, author of the immortal Elegy.

— It is said by somebody that, today, New Orleans feels as big as New York.

— When he was in this country, Dean Stanley urged the propriety of verifying quotations instead of trusting to memory, which is so often treacherous in this respect.

— A great deal of rubbish work is being done for the President elect, about these times.

— Back of the United States promises in the shape of bonds there is said to be a solid property of some 17 thousand millions, enough, one would say, to make the bonds worth ultimately as much as their face.

— Eight years ago, Philadelphia was the Mecca of millions of American pilgrims. Now the line of travel will be toward the Cresent City, half foreign, half native, and yet wholly American.

— A portion of the large estate left by the late Dr. J. C. Ayer of Lowell, consisted of 175,000 acres of land in the upper Michigan peninsula. Of white pines alone there are 600 million feet standing on the tract, which also includes much valuable iron and copper lands.

— Joseph Cook is lecturing to crowded houses in San Francisco. He recently told his hearers that the working part of a man's life consisted of 135,000 hours.

— Some rogue recently stole Belva Lockwood's tricycle in Washington.

— A writer in the Popular Science Monthly says that "the practice of taking tea or coffee by students in order to work at night is downright madness. More than half the cases of breakdown, loss of memory, fainting, etc., which occur during severe examinations, and far more frequently than is commonly known, are due to this. Sleep is the rest of the brain; to rob the brain of its necessary rest is cerebral suicide."

— The inclined plane on the Pennsylvania Railroad at Pittsburg, is a gigantic structure of its kind, built according to the most scientific designs, and without regard to cost. The plane has a total length of 840 f et, with a rise of near. ly 43 feet to the 100. It is built on arches, the cables are wholly of steel, and the engines supplying the motive power are of 700 horse power.

— It has been proven that Staked Plain, a plateau in northwestern Texas and the eastern part of New Mexico, covering an area of 40,000 square miles, is no longer the barren desert which it has been described in the geographies. Wells of splendid water are being digged, and the welcome fluid springs up any time after going down twenty feet. This water not only supplies stock but enough is expected to be obtained to use successfully for irrigating purposes.

— It is not generally known in this country that there was an Irish corps in the French army during the Franco German war. It was a small contingent, but it was as distinctly Irish as any of the old Irish brigades which served France from 1691 to 1791. The Irish people also sent a fully equipped ambulance corps to France, composed of about thirty physicians, three hundred men and four wagons, with all the necessary stretchers, instruments, and appliances for service in the field.

☞ The kidneys cleanse the system. It is important to keep them healthful and active, and this is best done with Hunt's [Kidney and Liver] Remedy. It is a specific for all kidney, liver and urinary complaints Some of the worst chronic cases, that have been given up to die by physicians and friends, have been cured.

In Madagascar the French forces are reported to be meeting with a series of successes, and a number of interior rulers have made terms with the invaders.

LETTER FROM IDAHO TERRITORY.

To the Editor Massachusetts Ploughman:

I like the *Ploughman*, and the neighbors read it constantly. Perhaps your readers would like to hear some account of this country. I have located on the "Camas Prairie," which lies among the mountains and extends about twenty-five miles by twenty miles. The soil is very rich, supporting a heavy growth of bunch grass Springs abounds, and creeks of pure water run at intervals of two or three miles. The prairie also lies adjacent to the Snake river, the Clearwater and White Bird and Salmon rivers. The climate is uniform and delightful. There is no frost in the ground yet this fall, and no snow has fallen on the prairie, though the mountains in sight have been capped with snow for a month or more. The absence of high wind is very noticeable. In the past three months there has not been half a day when the wind would make it inconvenient to handle hay in any shape. The air is fresh and pure, with clear sky a large proportion of the time. Rain falls in showers sufficient to ensure good crops, and no irrigation is needed. Wheat is sown almost any month in the year, and yields from twenty to thirty-five or forty bushels per acre. Much of the grain is cut soon after heading, and is used as hay for winter feeding. This is because there is no market for threshed wheat, the nearest accessible shipping point being Lewiston, about fifty miles away.

Vegetables grow to perfection. I have seen fine specimens of potatoes, squash, turnips, cabbage, onions, etc., raised the past season. I weighed one turnip as I pulled it, and free of dirt it weighed sixteen pounds. Some tender vegetables like tomatoes require special care and forcing to ensure a crop, as the nights are cool even in the summer season.

Cattle run at large. Thousands of horses, cattle and sheep, and even hogs roam the prairie. The owners brand them or herd them, and few of them ever see the inside of a stable. Tame grasses thrive. It is easy to see timothy heads each eight inches long on stalks four feet high or over. Apple trees do well under proper treatment; so do smaller fruits.

The settlers are of almost every nation, are peaceable and respectable. Churches and schools are scarce, but their number is increasing. The Nez Perces Indian Reservation adjoins this prairie, and there is some talk of its being opened for settlement. If opened, in addition to the land already available under regular government rights, good land will be plenty and cheap.

Fish are plenty in the rivers; salmon, trout, etc., in season. For game, deer, elk, bear, cougar, coyote and prairie chickens.

Prices of products raised here are low. As for example, flour $3.50 per barrel; wheat 35 cents per bush; hay $4.00 per ton; fresh beef 6 or 7 cents by the quarter; pork 5 cents. Prices of goods brought from Lewiston, higher, as sugar, 8 to 10 pounds for $1; kerosene oil 75 cents per gallon. Clothing, furniture, etc., seem uniformly high to a person coming from the East. About the highest priced article I have found is crocks, viz: 75 per gallon. For borrowed money 2 per cent a month is paid.

I have lived in Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Minnesota and Idaho, and for climate I think the last named compares favorably with the others.

Respectfully, C. L. PALMER.

Idaho Territory, Nov. 15th, 1884.

LIVING A NEW LIFE.

Rheumatism loves to riot in a body weighted with years. Until the discovery of ATHLOPHORON there was but little hopes for the aged who suffered with pain and aches. Rev. Wesley Iliff, Cedarville, Ohio, writes: "Took ATHLOPHORON as directed and find I am well of Rheumatism. I am 65 years old and was getting stiff in my joints and limbs. Now I am as clear of Rheumatism and suffness as I ever was in my life. Consider ATHLOPHORON the greatest and best medicine I ever heard of."

— Prof. Huxley will be sixty years old next May. Having made the journey from Italy to London to attend his daughter's wedding, he has returned to Italy again to cure his liver and prolong his life under a prescription of absolute idleness. But idleness with him only means eight hours a day instead of sixteen.

☞ Do IT NOW and don't delay. Heart Disease should not be trifled with but cured; use Dr Graves' Heart Regulator and you will not be disappointed in its effects which are immediate. $1 00

— Jenny Lind is a teacher in the College of Music at Albert Hall, London. She is as punctual as a clock in coming, and often stays an hour and a half longer than her employer pays time. She is a devoted teacher, very strict but appreciative, and idolized by her scholars.

☞ The historian of the Norman Conquest, E A Freeman, who has just been appointed to a professorship of history at Oxford, will contribute to Longman's Magazine a series on the curious subject of "Children a Thousand Years Ago," in which he describes the everyday pursuits of young people in the ninth century.

— The peculiar and most significant feature of the New Orleans Exhibition, says the Boston Advertiser, its showing of the industrial achievements and possibilities of the South, is the record of what twenty years of free institutions have done. Yet, wonderful as this showing will be, it is not so much an achievement as a promise. The South has but awakened to a suspicion of its strength and its wealth.

☞ For throat and lung difficulties, Ayer's Cherry Pectoral, when seasonably taken, is a certain specific.

— Madame Ristori made her welcome appearance again at the Boston Theatre last Monday night. It is about twenty years since this community first had a taste of her noble qualities, and more than half as many since she made her second visit to Boston. She deservedly ranks in her mature years, among the foremost actors of the world.

☞ Man's inhumanity to woman makes countless thousands mourn, would be an applicable rendering of Pope's line, in view of the indignities she has suffered and pains undergone at the hands of unskilful physicians and quacks. Naturally modest, she suffers on until forced to consult a physician regarding some female difficulty, when she well knows is sapping her strength. All this embarrassment can be avoided and a cure effected by purchasing Dr Pierce's "Favorite Prescription" of your druggist, and taking as directed. Price reduced to one dollar.

— The dynamiters have so far bungled their atrocious business again as to have exploded a lot of gunpowder and dynamite under London Bridge without displacing even a single stone. They surely cannot believe they are helping the cause of Ireland in this way.

CHOLERA.—In the southern portion of France, in the district visited by this terrible and dreaded disease, the authorities recommended Ozone Pastilles as a preventive and cure.

☞ Confidential advice, to either sex on delicate diseases. Book three letter stamps. Address World's Dispensary Medical Association, Buffalo, N. Y.

— A fresh attempt is being made, under the lead of General Fitz John Porter of the board of police commissioners in New York, to enforce the Sunday laws, particularly those prohibiting open bars and drinking saloons. The new regulations went into operation on sunday last.

BUTTER BUYERS

everywhere are refusing to take white, lardy looking butter except at "grease" prices. Consumers want nothing but gilt edged butter, and buyers therefore recommend their patrons to keep a uniform color throughout the year by using the Improved Butter Color made by Wells, Richardson & Co., Burlington, Vt. It is the only color that can be relied on to never injure the butter, and to always give the perfect color. Sold by druggists and merchants.

— Full breasted and fat robins are sold in the New York markets for one dollar a dozen.

☞ No female should attempt the toil and drudgery of washday, when it can be obviated by the use of James Pyle's unrivalled Pearline.

— Mills in Fall River representing one million spindles have agreed to shut down.

CATARRH CURED.

A clergyman, after suffering a number of years from that loathsome disease, Catarrh, after trying every known remedy without success, at last found a prescription which completely cured and saved him from death. Any sufferer from this dreadful disease sending a self addressed stamped envelope to Dr. J. A. Lawrence, 199 Dean St., Brooklyn, New York, will receive the recipe free of charge.

nov15-13t-eow

The Grange.

MASSACHUSETTS STATE GRANGE.

ANNUAL SESSION OF THE ORDER OF PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY AT MARLBORO.

MARLBORO, Mass., December 16.—The twelfth annual session of the Massachusetts State Grange of the Order of Patrons of Husbandry opened at the Town Hall at 10 30 this forenoon, with about 300 granges in attendance. The hall was neatly decorated, and upon different officials' desks were profuse floral contributions.

An address of welcome was given by A. M. Brigham, master of Marlboro Grange, with a response by Worthy Overseer Henry Noble.

The roll call of granges showed a representation from a large number of granges in the State.

Worthy Master James Draper made the annual address, and was followed by Secretary H. A. Barton, from whose report it appeared that the membership was about 2700, an increase of 500 during the year.

Treasurer J. Pellsworth showed that the exchequer of the State Grange was ahead several hundred dollars.

Framingham, Barre, Medfield, Holliston, Westboro, Dover and Southboro were represented in the councils today for the first time. Two new district organizations have been perfected, one in Middlesex southwest, and the other covering the granges in southern Middlesex and Norfolk counties. Spencer Grange during the year held the first cattle show and fair in the history of the town. The next annual session of the National Grange will be held in Boston.

The following committees were appointed by State Master Draper:

Finance—N. B. Douglas, Sharborn; J. S. Welsh, Hudson; A. D. Phelps, Pepperell.

Constitution and By-laws—William B. Kimball, Enfield; M. P. Swallow, Dunstable; A. G. Sharpe, Richmond; George R. Waterman, Framingham; C. B. Sawin, Sontuboro; Charles Jones, Deerfield.

Agriculture—P. M. Harwood, Barre; J. S. Burpee, Sterling; J. E. McClennen, Grafton; George O. Dudley, Milbury; Elmer Shaw, Boylston; John Strong, Pittsfield.

Co-operation—S B Cook, Petersham; F D Deming, Lanesboro; E T Sabin, Amherst; W J Boynton, Groton; Emory S Bates, Phillipston.

Legislature—William H Earle, Worcester; A A Brigham, Marlboro; Henry Noble, Pittsfield; S E Stowe, Grafton; C A Denneu. Pepperell; A B Douglass, Sherborn.

Education—A A Brigham, Marlboro; George R Chase, Medfield; Amasa T Bemis, Spencer; I C Richardson, Holden, Mrs S E Stone, Grafton; Mrs C A Dennen, Pepperell.

Good of the Order—Louis La Croix, East Medway; George Manby, Hardwick; E C Howe, Shrewsbury; J W Higgins, Dover; Mrs A A Brigham, Marlboro; Mrs Amasa T Bemis, Spencer; Mrs John J Allen, Auburn.

County Granges—Frank A Harrington, Worcester; John J Allen, Woburn; B W Spooner, Petersham; Edward L Brown, Dalton; Mrs Geo H Chase, Medfield; Mrs H L Broaders, Westboro.

Fraternal Aid—C L Hartshorn, Worcester; W L G Harkin, West Boylston; M T Knapp, North Dana; E D Rice, Florida; Henry L Phelps, Southampton.

Publication—Mrs I A Harrington, Worcester; Mrs N B Douglass, Sherborn; Mrs E W Fiske, Grafton.

Hon. John E. Russell, Secretary of the State Board of Agriculture, delivered a remarkably clear and logical address.

THE MAINE GRANGERS HOLD THEIR ANNUAL MEETING.

HOULTON, Me., Dec. 16. The Maine State Grange annual reunion occurred at the Opera House today. Worthy Master Frederick Robey called the meeting to order, all the officers being present. Seventy six subordinate granges were represented by 173 delegates. Committees were appointed and an adjournment had until two o'clock. At that hour the public was invited to listen to the Master's address and the hall was filled. The delivery occupied an hour. Then followed the reading of reports of officers. The meeting promises to be harmonious and interesting, and is expected to close Thursday. The gain in membership during the year was over 1100.

THE NEW HAMPSHIRE GRANGERS.

MANCHESTER, N. H., Dec. 16. The annual meeting of the New Hampshire State Grange convened in this city this morning. Forty six granges were represented. An address of welcome by Col. Waterman Smith of this city was delivered, responded to by Charles McDaniel of Springfield on behalf of the State Grange. The Master of the State Grange, Col. Wm. H. Stinson, delivered the annual address.

The report of the Treasurer shows: Balance on hand Dec. 1, 1883, $886,18; received during the year, $981,04; amount on deposit, $896,03; balance on hand Dec. 16, 1884, $718,60. The Secretary's report shows that six new granges have been organized during the year, viz.: Daniel Webster at Webster, Crystal Lake at Gilmanton, McClary at Epsom, Monadnock at Dublin, Bartlett at Salisbury and Silver Lake at Harrisville. Three have been reorganized; North Star of Stewartstown, Bennington of Bennington, Deerfield of Deerfield. The membership at the beginning of the last quarter in 1883 was 3445; same time in 1884, 3852; gain, 413; number of males initiated, 302; females, 273; number suspended, 32; withdrawn, 103; died, 21; expelled, 2. The largest grange is Amoskeag, No. 3, of Manchester, having 182 members. The granges making largest gains in members were: New London, 51; Amoskeag, 38; Hollis, 36; Ezekial Webster, 29; Harmony, 29; Turner, 26. The largest cash receipts were made from Amoskeag. There are two Pomona granges, Hillsboro', No. 1, and Eastern New Hampshire Pomona, No. 2, and one Council, the Merrimack County Council, No. 2. The evening session was devoted to reports of the District Deputies and other officers. The meeting continues through tomorrow.

☞ Captain Mitchell of the bark Antoine Sala, New York and Havana trade, came home in May, entirely helpless with rheumatism. He was given up by physicians, but receiving no benefit, at his wife's request began to take Hood's Sarsaparilla. He immediately began to improve; in two months his rheumatism was all gone, and he sailed in command of his vessel a well man. Hood's Sarsaparilla will help you. Sold by all druggists.

— The niece of Washington Irving, living at his "Sunnyside" cottage on the Hudson, has offered to the senior class of Princeton College, for the Commencement ivy ceremony,

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IT CURES WHEN ALL OTHER MEDICINES FAIL, as it acts DIRECTLY on the KIDNEYS, LIVER and BOWELS, restoring lost vitality and giving them up to do action. It is a safe, sure and speedy cure and has been cured by it when physicians and friends had given them up to die.

IT IS BOTH A SAFE CURE and a SPECIFIC.

It CURES all Diseases of the Kidneys, Liver, Bladder and Urinary Organs; Dropsy, Gravel, Diabetes, Bright's Disease, Nervous Diseases, Excesses, Female Weaknesses, Jaundice, Biliousness, Headache, Sour Stomach, Dyspepsia, Constipation, Piles, Pains in the Back, Loins, or Side, Retention or Non-Retention of Urine.

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Received the Highest Award at the Five Worlds Fairs; received over 100 First Premiums and Diplomas; received a special Silver Medal at Manchester, N. H., 1884. E. Fair, 1883.

This reliable, self-regulating, storm-proof and noiseless Windmill, after a test of 10 years, has become a favorite wherever known, 10,000 are now in use. Hundreds of the best farms in New England are using the Eclipse, and will testify to its merits. We would refer to the public no fulsome words of praise, but prefer to what the people who use it say in plain statement of facts from our patrons.

A Wheel to any size shaft can be furnished. Also many supply materials promptly furnished. Pumps, Water Pipe, Tanks and Railroad frost proof Hydrants. Full satisfaction guaranteed in every case.

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All sizes and styles shown to any who will call, and prices promptly furnished. Pumps, Water Pipe, Tanks and Railroad frost proof Tanks a specialty. Full satisfaction guaranteed

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VIGOR

For Men. Quick, sure, safe. Book free. Grime Agency, 169 Fulton St., New York.

AGRICULTURAL ITEMS.

— More than 4,000,000 tons of cotton seed are produced annually.

— A ton of cotton seed yields thirty-five gallons of oil, twenty two pounds of cotton, and 750 pounds of fattening cake.

— The bee industry in Maine is rapidly advancing.

— The average yield of the potato crop of the United States during the past season is estimated at ninety bushels per acre, the total yield being about 190,000,000 bushels.

— Bone meal is an excellent fertiliser for small fruits.

— California farmers are endeavoring to use negro laborers in preference to the Chinese.

— Maryland and Virginia will require potatoes for planting from the North next spring.

— Southdown sheep are being superseded by Hampshire and Shropshire which are just as good and larger.

— Timothy may be sown any time before the ground freezes.

— More good beef can be made between one and two years old at less cost with Shorthorn cattle than by keeping them longer.

— The secret of keeping onions is to have them thoroughly dry before storing them away in a thoroughly dry cellar.

— The Wealthy apple is estimated to be worth a million dollars to Minnesota.

— At a recent inspection of cow stables in New York, Brooklyn and New Jersey four hundred and eighteen cases of pleuro-pneumonia were discovered and the contagiousness of the disease proved beyond a doubt.

— Agriculture is so depressed in Normandy that property has declined fully one-third in value.

— The shipments from Boston during last week were 611 live cattle and 247 live sheep and 344,577 pounds of fresh beef.

— Cheap corn in the West means a large outfit of fat hogs.

— There are 23,000,000 head of cattle in the States West of the Mississippi river.

— Sixty million pounds of cheese have been exported from Montreal the present season.

— The annual value of the honey produced in the United States and Canada is $18,000,000.

— The Boston market is now receiving large quantities of potatoes from Vermont and New York.

— Some writers advise planting maple trees in preference to the cultivation of sorghum as a method of securing sugar.

— Nebraska farmers are learning that fattening stock pays better than wheat raising.

— The farmers of the Argentine Republic have planted immense fields of flaxseed and devote less attention to the cultivation of wheat.

— Mormons in Tennessee are emigrating to Colorado and Utah.

— The New York canals will be closed December 1, and freights from the west will then be higher.

— Sugar maples should never be pruned in the spring. The fall is the time.

— Dogs cost as much as sheep to keep and yield no return, and cause great damage frequently.

— The date palm is distributed over northern Africa and tropical Asia.

— Young animals make the most rapid increase in weight. Fatten them while young.

— Apple trees which bear poor fruits should be grafted. Why lose a profit by keeping a poor tree growing?

— Grapes should be gathered on a clear dry day and all imperfect or unripe berries removed from the bunches.

— Celery is a profitable crop but requires attention. So is horse radish and the latter takes less care.

— The bread fruit tree might be profitably grown in some of our Southern States. It yields a very large and profitable crop.

— The largest trees in the world are the eucalyptic found in Australia.

— The orange crop at Nassau is reported unusually good.

— The acreage of tobacco in Kentucky is smaller than supposed. The South and the west are both given to exaggeration.

— Lumber is now dried by packing in salt. The only merit of this consists in the novelty.

— German railways are forbidden to carry emigrants at reduced rates.

— There is still a very severe drought in certain parts of Virginia.

— Buttermilk is in great demand by city people. It is undoubtedly very healthy.

— Foreign markets for mutton and beef are more inviting to American shippers than for horses within years past.

— At the cattlemen's convention in St. Louis, there were 1200 accredited delegates.

— An epidemic known as "black leg" has broken out among the young cattle in the Western section of Berk Co., Pa. The disease is very loathsome and many have succumbed. The animals become lame and death soon ensues.

— Three grocers were arrested in New York on the 19th of November for selling oleomargarine.

— Wheat from India, expected to be sold at forty shillings a quarter was disposed of at thirty four.

— In 1858 wheat was but 59 cents a bushel in Chicago and 37 shillings and 6 pence per quarter in Liverpool; today it is 75 cents in Chicago and thirty shillings in Liverpool.

— An Oldtown, Mass., grower has raised 50,000 cabbages.

— A Plymouth farmer raised 3000 bushels of apples this year.

— One buyer has purchased 400,000 bar rels of apples in New Hampshire for shipment.'—[Ex. We do not believe it.

— Loamy or gravelly soils are the most favorable to fruit growing.

— Showy fruits are the best for market.

— In many localities apples are now selling at seven to ten cents a bushel. They are good in small quantities for horses and cattle.

— Barbed wire fences can be in some cases used as trellises for grape vines.

— The Japanese persimmon promises to be a valuable fruit in the South.

— Do not allow water to stand about fruit trees.

— Late feeding on mowing land saves hay, but it is poor economy in more senses than one.

— The illegal fencing-in of public lands still continues in the West.

— In fattening poultry give them all the corn they will eat.

— Poultry for market should be packed cold but not frozen; the animal heat should be out of the bodies before they are packed.

— The exports of butter from Boston last week were 448 packages, and of cheese 3040 boxes.

— Pillow shams and bed sheets are now made from wood paper.

— In Germany fruit trees on the highways yield fruit to passers by, except those about which the owner has bound a wisp of straw.

— The total value of breadstuffs exported from the United States during October was $11,541,112.

— Turnips cannot be successfully grown in the district of Montreal, and cabbages cannot be grown successfully in the district of Quebec. So these places exchange these products.

— Hay is used as fuel in Dakota to generate steam for thrashing grain.

— In Missouri hogs weighing respectively 425 and 465 pounds are only a trifle over a year old.

— An Illinois farmer states that he has lost 150 hogs out of 300 through the ravages of hog cholera.

— The total cranberry crop of 1884 is estimated to reach 330,000 bushels.

— The average annual yield of butter from each cow in Vermont is 125 pounds. Some cows yield 300 pounds.

— Beef is twice as dear as it was twenty five years ago while that of wheat is about the same.

— English walnuts come from Naples and France—Grenoble walnuts are well known.

— Oat dressing is becoming an industry at the skins can be used to line cloaks.

— Whether crab on potatoes is caused by a fungus or by wire worms has not yet been decided.

— A favorite brand of apples is the Newton pippin.

TIME IS MONEY.

Time and money will be saved by keeping Kidney Wort in the house. It is an invaluable remedy for all disorders of the Kidneys, Liver and Bowels, and for all diseases arising from obstructions of these organs. It has cured many obstinate cases after hundreds of dollars had been paid to physicians without obtaining relief. It cures Constipation, Piles, Biliousness and all kindred disorders. Keep it by you.

— Barbed wire fences are not in great favor and several propositions have been made in various States to attempt to secure by legislative enactment a prohibition of their use. That animals have been injured by them is not to be doubted, but whether the advantages of them a re outweighed by the disadvantages is not so easi ly decided.

A PITIFUL SIGHT.

What sadder sight can be imagined than that of a noble man, whom the world can ill afford to spare, stricken down in the prime of a useful life by consumption. Thousands are yearly filling consumptives' graves who might be saved by the timely use of Dr. Pierce's "Golden Medical Discovery," which is a positive cure for consumption in its early stages. It is the best alternative and pectoral in the world. All druggists.

A Sensation

of relief is sure to follow the use of Ayer's Sarsaparilla, and thousands thankfully acknowledge its good effects. Charles C. Smith, Craftsbury, Vt., says: "I have been troubled, for a long time, with a humor, which appeared on my face in ugly pimples and blotches. Ayer's Sarsaparilla cured me. I consider it the best blood purifier in the world."

In Court

one who needs help is indeed fortunate who finds a friend. But he is still more fortunate who discovers that he may eradicate the poisons of scrofula from his system by the use of Ayer's Sarsaparilla. Scrofula is one of the most terrible of all diseases. It is in the blood, corrupting and contaminating every tissue and fiber in the whole body. Patrick

Judge

of the feelings of Mrs. T. P. Cushing, 87 Suffolk st., Chelsea, who, after being so afflicted with Salt Rheum that her fingers would crack open, and bleed and itch terribly, was cured by four bottles of Ayer's Sarsaparilla. Mrs. E. G. Evans, 73 Carver st., Boston, Mass., suffered severely from rheumatism and debility. Ayer's Sarsaparilla proved a specific in her case. Francis Johnson, Editor of the "German American," Lafayette, Ind., writes: "For years I have been subject to chronic attacks of neuralgia, especially at the commencement of spring. I have derived great benefit from Ayer's Sarsaparilla." It has

Lynch

Wholesale Grocer, Lowell, Mass., says: "Ayer's Sarsaparilla is the best." The following, from R. L. King, Richmond, Va., is corroborated by Purcell, Ladd & Co., druggists, of that city. Mr. K. writes (May 12, 1884): "My son Thomas, aged 12, has suffered horribly, for three years, with scrofula, in its worst form. His case was said to be incurable. One arm was useless; his right leg was paralyzed; a large piece of bone had cut through the skin at the shoulder-blade, and three large sores constantly discharged offensive matter. He began taking Ayer's Sarsaparilla on the 6th of March, and, oh, what a

Saved and

restored thousands. Walter Barry, 7 Hollis st., Boston, Mass., after vainly trying a number of medicines, for the cure of lumbago, was persuaded to try Ayer's Sarsaparilla. He writes: "Your valuable medicine not only relieved me, but I believe it has worked a perfect cure, although my complaint was apparently chronic." Thos. Dalby, Watertown, Mass., has long been a sufferer from lumbago and rheumatism. So great has been his improvement since using

Happy

change; indeed, a miracle. In a few weeks the sores began to heal; he gained strength, and could walk around the house. We persevered with the Sarsaparilla, yet having little hope of his recovery. To-day he can run as far as any other boy of his age. The sores on his arm, shoulder, and back, have nearly healed, his muscles are strengthening, and he is the picture of health." Equally important facts concerning the use of Ayer's Sar-

Ayer's Sar saparilla

saparilla that he has every reason to believe it will effect a permanent cure.

by other members of Mr. King's family, are contained in the same letter.

Prepared by Dr. J. C. Ayer & Co., Lowell, Mass., U. S. A.

For sale by all Druggists. Price $1; six bottles for $5.

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HOG DISEASES.—The "Arm and Hammer" brand Soda and Saleratus is used with great success for the prevention and cure of HOG CHOLERA and other diseases. Mix with the animal's food.

"ARM & HAMMER BRAND"

To insure obtaining only the "Arm & Hammer" brand Soda or Saleratus, buy it in "pound or half pound" cartoons which bear our name and trade-mark, as inferior goods are sometimes substituted for the "Arm & Hammer brand when bought in bulk. Ask for the "Arm & Hammer" brand SALSODA (Washing Soda).

dec20,27 :J10,24 :F14,28 :M14,28

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THE publishers of the *Chicago Post and Courier* desire to secure 100,000 more subscribers. For 50 cents we will mail you our paper six months on trial, and immediately send you a numbered Receipt, which will entitle the holder to one of the following presents. All these presents will be given to those of the 100,000 subscribers.

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10 Cash presents of $1,000 each; 10 U. S. Bonds, $500 each; 10 U. S. Greenbacks, $100 each; 100 U. S. Greenbacks, $10 each; 1000 Cash Presents of $1 each; 1 Grand Square Piano; 1 Grand Cabinet Organ; 100 Ladies' Gold Watches, $40 each; 100 Silver Hunting-Case Watches, $20 each; 100 Stem-winding Nickel-Case Watches, $8 each; 50 Ladies' Chatelaine Watches, $10 each; 50 Gents' Silver Watches, $10 each; 200 Waterbury Watches, $3.50 each; 50 Ladies' Gold Neck Chains, $15 each; 50 cents' Gold Chains, $25 each; 20 Ladies' Gold Bracelets, $15 each; 10 Silver Dinner Services, $100 each; 10 Silver Tea Sets, $60 each; 10 Sets Parlor Furniture, $100 each; 500 Solid Gold Rings, $3 each; 500 Sets Solid Silver Teaspoons, 6 pieces in a set, $2 per set; 1000 each 1 hundred pair Trotting Horses $1,000; 500 pairs Ladies' Roller Skates; 500 pairs Boys' Roller Skates; and hundreds of other useful and valuable presents which we cannot enumerate here. All the above presents will be awarded in a fair and impartial manner, commencing at the beginning of the United States or Canada. Every person sending us 50 cents for a 6-months' trial subscription to our paper is also privileged to apply for a loan, to be made out of advertising profits, the amount borrowed being governed by the time unpaid as long as the borrower remains a subscriber and keeps the interest paid. On the bases of 250,000 circulation (which will probably be doubled) the business and profits will approximate as follows: Receipts: 250,000 yearly subscribers, $250,000; 1,000 inches advertising, $2.50 per line, $15 per inch, 24 issues, $360,000; total, $610,000. Expenses: For paper and press work, 250,000 copies, 24 issues, $200,000; editorial work, office, repairs, etc., $25,000; total, $225,000; leaving a net profit of $385,000. For this enormous profit for sale of advertising space the *Chicago Post and Courier* depends on the 250,000 subscribers, for advertisers pay for space in proportion to circulation. With but 25,000 circulation the profits would be but a tenth of the amount. Therefore as all seekers are desiring of a loan when they send us their names, we desire to return favor for favor. Any subscriber who desires to borrow from $100 to $500 at 4 per cent. the principal to stand if desired, as long as the borrower remains a subscriber, should so state when he sends us 50 cents for a 6-months' trial subscription to our paper.

CONDITIONS: Loans made pro rata, not less than $100 nor more than $500. First year's interest at 4 per cent. to be charted from amount loaned. Your individual note is all the security asked, provided you will send the names of several of your neighbors to whom we can refer—not as to the amount of property you are worth but as to your good character. Every subscriber must positively agree to show the paper and present to his friends and neighbors. When a loan is made, the adjoining form of note will be sent with the money to the subscriber's nearest bank or express office, and no note need be signed until the money is paid over. Send the names of several references, and immediate inquiry will be made. If no loan is desired, no references need be sent.

Sample Copy Free.

CHICAGO POST AND COURIER, - Morrison Building, Corner Clark Street and Calhoun Place, Chicago, Ill.

dec20-1t

900 GOLD WATCHES FREE!

WHO WILL SEND THE QUICKEST?

In making up the above list of presents, we decided to reserve $9,000 to be divided equally among the first 900 subscribers received. If you send 50 cents you will be entitled to one *receipt* good for *one present*, and if your letter is among the first 900 received you will also be entitled to a beautiful gold watch. The watch is one-third larger than the picture. We will send a printed list of the awards, free, and all presents will be forwarded to holders of receipts as they may direct. A list of watch winners will be published in our paper.

The 50 cents you send us is the regular price for six months, therefore you pay nothing for the present. Subscribe at once, don't wait a day. We will send you the paper 9 months and 2 numbered receipt, good for 2 presents, if you send us 75 cents. Send 1 dollar and the paper will be mailed you 1 year, and 3 receipts good for 3 presents. Get your friends to join you, and send $2.50, and we will send the paper 6 months and 1 numbered receipt for each of your subscribers and 1 extra for your trouble. No postponement. Send in subscribers with the $5, and we will send you 12 numbered receipts and 12 presents. This offer is good only until February 25. We have 150,000 subscribers already, and only require 100,000 more to have the desired number. Our old patrons and subscribers, whom we number by thousands, should go to work at once and help us increase our list by this grand and generous offer.

ONLY 50 CENTS Secures our paper 6 months on trial and one receipt good for one present. As to our reliability, we refer to any Bank or Mercantile Agency. Remember these are presents to our subscribers, given to them absolutely free. This is a chance of a lifetime, *the true pathway to your future fortune.* Every subscriber gets a prize. *A fortune may be yours if you will but stretch forth your hand to receive it.* It costs only 50 cents to try—*it is possible you will let it pass!* Postage stamps taken from places where a Postal Note cannot be obtained. Remit by Postal Note, plain envelope or express. Address

You can get this Gold Watch for 50 Cts. If you Send at once.

dec20-1t

HIGHEST AWARD!

A SILVER MEDAL, at the 13th Annual Exhibition, 1884, of the Massachusetts Charitable Mechanic Association.

STOVER WINDMILL.

This old and reliable mill is the *simplest, strongest*, and most durable Windmill made. Every farmer or other person intending to purchase should examine it. It takes care of itself in a gale, has but *three* oiling places, turns on *anti-friction ball-bearings*, which require no oiling, and has no superior in finish, power or workmanship. Send for Catalogue and testimonials.

HENRY W. PEABODY & CO., Sole New England Agents, 114 State Street, Boston.

nov22-13t

300 Carriages

We invite attention to our large assortment of

CARRIAGES, suitable for FALL AND WINTER USE, Victorias in Great variety.

Also the light Victoria Duquessa, specially adapted for ladies' use. Beach Wagons in all the leading styles, including the popular Russian, with and without Canopy Top. Gladstone Wagons, very stylish. A fine selection of Two-wheel Carts, with and without Top. Canopy Phætons, sidebar and Cut-under Extension Top Carriages, and a choice lot of Top and Open Buggies, in all the latest patterns.

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Branch Store, 13 Green St., Boston

oct4-26t

FOR SALE

BUTTER BULLS from large fresh cows and of fast-trotting families—Blood of Pedro 3197, attractive prices.

J. FRANCIS GULLIVER, Andover, Mass.

dec13-3t

Chester White, Berkshire and Poland China PIGS. Fine Setter DOGS. Scotch Collies, Fox Hounds and Beagles, bred and for sale by W. Gilborn & Co., West Chester, Chester Co., Pa. Send stamp for Circular and Price List.

au30-y

EDMUND H. BENNETT, Office No. 10 Tremont Street,

(Near the Museum.)

SPECIAL ATTENTION TO LAND AND FARMING QUESTIONS.

Take the Elevator. oct18-tf

CIDER.

BOOMER & BOSCHERT PRESSES,

Graters, Elevators, Boilers Engines, Shafting Pullies, &c. MANNING'S PATENT FILTER, RAPID *for Cider and Sugars.* Address

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my1-y

VIRGINIA FARMS & MILLS

For Sale & Exchange. FREE Catalogue. R. B. CHAFFIN & Co., Richmond, Va.

dec13-13t

WANTED.—Ladies or Gentlemen to take nice, light, pleasant work at their own homes (distance no objection). Work sent by mail. $5 a day can be quietly made. No canvassing. Please address at once, Globe M'f'g Co., Boston, Mass, box 1046. nov8-13t

PLANTING A NUT GROVE.

(Lancaster Farmer.)

Black walnuts, hickory nuts, chestnuts and butternuts for planting should never be allowed to dry, and the fresher they are from the tree the more certain they are to grow. If the ground can be got ready for planting in the autumn it is well to put them in the rows in the vegetable garden, where they are to grow for the first two years. All of the four kinds mentioned should be planted in rows three and a half or four feet apart, and five or six inches apart in the rows, and all about three inches in depth. If the ground cannot be got ready in au umn, place the nuts in a shallow box of sand, and bury them in the garden where they may freeze during the winter. The bottom of the box must be loose enough so the water can run out.

Whether planted in autumn or in spring in the garden they should be cultivated as soon as the young trees make their appearance. They should be kept perfectly clean the first summer and also the second summer. Some of the nuts may not come up until the second spring. When they are two years old they are ready to transplant. It is best to wait until early in spring, however to do this work. The ground should be thoroughly ploughed and leveled. A crop of potatoes upon sod ground is a good preparation. Select the largest, straightest trees in the rows for your own use. If any of the trees have grown puny and crooked from the first, throw them away. They will never overtake their more thrifty neighbor.

If the young trees are to be set in fence corners or upon the roadside, they must be kept thoroughly mulched with coarse straw for at least five or six years. An annual spading about the roots will also promote the growth wonderfully. If they are set in an orchard by themselves, they should be placed in rows thirty or forty feet apart each way, and kept cultivated until they begin to bear. The ground can be occupied by corn, potatoes or beans or squashes, keeping up the fertility by the use of barnyard manure. After the trees begin to bear, the ground may be seeded and pastured by sheep or calves. Sheep will keep the grass short, which will make it easier to gather the nuts that have fallen to the ground.

The trees will begin bearing in from six to eight years from the time they are transplanted, and will increase in height at the rate of one and a half to two feet each year, for the first twenty years at least. The walnut and chestnut will grow the most rapidly, the butternut next and the hickory slowest of all. They will need no pruning except to form the heads from four to six feet from the ground, and to cut out any limbs that may become crossed or broken.

The above directions, with many additional details for which unfortunately we have no space, are from the pen of Professor Satterlee, and appear in the current report of the Michigan Horticultural Society. The paper concludes as follows:

"I know of no more enjoyable thing about a farmer's house than a small orchard of nut-bearing trees. An acre or two devoted to this purpose will do as much to keep the boys and girls at home while young, and to make the memory of the old home blessed in after life, as anything that I could name.

Do not say "it takes too long to get the trees in bearing." I have young trees growing that are the grandchildren of those that came from the nuts that I planted only twenty years ago. I was 16 years old then and am not a very old man yet. I feel as keen enjoyment in raking over the golden leaves and searching for the rich, brown nuts as any of my younger friends, and I hope to experience the same enjoyment, and appreciate it, too, for many years to come.

ISOLATING COWS.

A cow kept by herself will give better results than the same cow in a herd with others. The single cow will be better fed, and a more important point, so far as butter making is concerned, will be the fact that nearly all the butter will be got from the cream, which is never the case when the milk and cream from a herd of cows are mixed before churning. Owing to difference in size of the butter globules the milk from cows varies largely in the time required to bring the butter.—[N. Y. Herald.

The New York Sun.

An Independent Newspaper of Democratic Principles, but not Controlled by any Set of Politicians or Manipulators; Devoted to Collecting and Publishing all the News of the Day in the most Interesting Shape and with the greatest possible Promptness, Accuracy and Impartiality; and to the Promotion of Democratic Ideas and Policy in the affairs of Government, Society and Industry.

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Address, THE SUN, New York City.

dec20-2t

A BOX OF DOLLS FREE

To any boy or girl who will send us the names of three of their young friends who are interested in cards, and 16c. for postage, we will send free, a Case of 6 Lovely Dolls with an outfit of 35 dresses, hats, &c., worth $1.00 to any little girl, and our New Illustrated Holiday Catalogue and a price list of 1,000 new styles of Visiting Cards. Address ACME CARD CO., IVORTON, CONN.

dec20-1t

GOLD WATCH FREE!

The publishers of the Capitol City Home Guest, the well-known Illustrated Literary and Family Magazine, make the following Liberal Offer for the New Year: The person selling or getting up the largest list of subscribers from March 1st, will receive as their premium a Solid Gold, Lady's Hunting Case Swiss Watch, worth $50; the person selling the next largest list, a Solid Gold, Gentleman's Hunting Case Stem-winding Gentleman's Watch; the third, a Stem-winding English Watch. Each person must send $1.00 with their answer, for which they will receive three months' subscription to the Home Guest, a 50 page Illustrated New Year's Book, a Case of 25 articles that the ladies will appreciate, and paper containing names of winners. Stamps will be taken. Address Pubs. of HOME GUEST, HARTFORD, CONN.

dec20-1t

QUINCY MUTUAL FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY.

Cash Fund, January 1, 1882, $440,183,06. Surplus over re-insurance $253,309.74. Gain in Cash Fund the past year, $15,135.19. Gain in Cash Surplus the past year, $18,996.26. Amount at risk, $25,309,944. Total Liabilities, $186,873.30. All losses paid in full. Dividends paid on every expiring policy; 40 per cent. on 5 Years 30 per cent. on 4 years, and 20 per cent. on all others Note the safer classes of property written.

ISRAEL W. MONROE, *Pres and Treas.* CHAS. A. HOWLAND, *Secretary.*

BOSTON OFFICE, NO. 27 STATE STREET. Local Agencies in every town. dec2-y

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Chickering, BOSTON.

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69,000 Instruments Made.

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Second-hand Pianos in great variety for Sale and to Rent by

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sep27-17t

THE COMET

Mr. EARLY PEAR, HARVEST and other kinds of Apples, handsome and fair, July The earliest and most beautiful Pear grown. Sold in New York at $8 per bushel. Send for Circular. Address S. COLLINS, MOORESTOWN, New Jersey.

dec20-1t

Wanted,

ON a farm within 50 miles of Boston, a home for a girl of 14, strong, healthy, affectionate and capable; but with poor bringing up, and quick-tempered. Address P. O. Box 149, Milton, Mass.

nov20-4t

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At a reasonable expense and in the shortest possible time young men and women can acquire a better business education at

FRENCH'S BUSINESS COLLEGE

Y. M. C. A. Building, corner Boylston and Berkeley Sts., Boston, than at any other commercial school or college in New England. Unequalled advantages are offered in both the BUSINESS and SHORTHAND departments, and the graduates are always in demand among the business men of Boston and other places. The best arrangements for the health and comfort of our students. The only college in Boston where SHORTHAND, now so much in demand, is practically taught in connection with other requisite branches. Studio sts. commence at any time. No classes.

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sep20-13t

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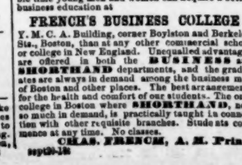

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Or On Exhibition and for sale by C. H. Thompson & Co., 71 Clinton St., Boston.

aug16-tf

Holstein Cattle.

MORE THAN 1,750 HOLSTEINS IMPORTED AND BRED BY THIS FIRM

600 now on hand. All of choice quality and breeding. Nearly all the deep-milking families of America represented.

Over thirty yearly records made by cows in this herd, which average 14,312 pounds, 5 ounces per year, at an average age of 4¼ years.

In 1881 our entire herd of mature cows averaged 14,164 pounds, 13 ounces.

In 1883 our entire herd of eight 2-year olds averaged 12,208 pounds, 9 ounces.

On April 1st, 1884, TEN cows in this herd had made records from 14,000 to 18,000 pounds each, the average being 15,5?5 pounds, 8 5-10 ounces, which included every mature cow in the herd that we had owned long enough to make a year's record, excepting one kept for family use.

We milked through the year ending in June last five mature cows, the entire lot averaging 12,81 pounds, 1 5-5 ounces.

Seven heifers of our family (the Netherland family,) five of them 2 years old and two 3 years old, averaged 11,856 pounds, 1 5 ounces. This last is a family record.

Not one of these records has ever been equalled with an equal number of cows by any herd.

DAYTIME RECORDS.

Nine cows averaged 17 pounds, 4½ ounces per week.
Eight heifers 2 years old averaged 13 pounds, 4½ ounces per week.
Eleven heifers, 2 years old and younger, averaged 11 pounds, 8 ounces per week.
The entire original imported Netherland Family of six cows (two being but three years old,) averaged 16 pounds, 12 11-12 ounces per week.
The above records are a sufficient guarantee of superiority.
This is the class of cattle with which to found a herd. START RIGHT.
See for yourself before buying. Prices reasonable. Send for catalogue and examine pedigrees.

SMITHS & POWELL,

LAKESIDE STOCK FARM, SYRACUSE, N. Y.

nv15-12t

LAC TARTAR.

Made from Lactic Acid,

(THE ACID OF SOUR MILK.)

Pure and Healthful, the first and only preparation possessing the wholesome properties of sour milk for baking purposes.

Lac Tartar biscuits, like those made with sour milk, are not only sweeter and more palatable, but more easily digested than any other kind, and equal to yeast bread in keeping qualities.

Superior to Cream Tartar or Baking Powder in Bread Making qualities.

SOLD BY ALL GROCERS.

Manufactured and put up expressly for family use by the

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BEST. CHEAPEST. SIMPLEST.

Sows all grains, grass seeds, plaster, salt, ashes, commercial fertilizers — everything requiring broadcasting—any quantity per acre, better and faster than any other method. SAVES SEED by sowing perfectly even. *Not affected by wind*, as seed is not thrown upwards. Sows 8 or 16 rods wide, cast, on either or both sides of wagon. Readily attached to any wagon or cart without injury, and used wherever they can be driven. Lasts a lifetime. Sows 80 acres wheat per day. Crop one-fourth larger than when drilled. Only perfect Broadcaster made; most accurate agricultural implement in the world. Endorsed and recommended by Agricultural colleges and best farmers in U. S. Fully warranted—perfectly simple. Do not be put off with any other. Send at once for new free illustrated catalogue with full information and hundreds of testimonials.

C. W. DORR, Manager RACINE SEEDER COMPANY, 146 FOURTH ST., DES MOINES, IOWA.

nov1-39t (oMyJe)

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OVER 300,000 IN ACTUAL USE And all giving perfect satisfaction.

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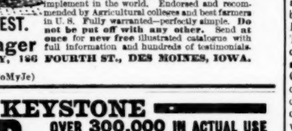

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Circulars Free. Refer to either of this paper. Address F. F. ADAMS & CO., Erie, Pa.

oc4

MICHIGAN FARMERS 300.000 Acres

Find the best markets in the world right at their doors. Blizzards and tornadoes do not devastate their crops and ruin their homes. I have for Sale. Easy payments; long time; low rate of interest. O. M. BARNES, Saginaw, Mich.

sep13-13teow

HOW THE FARM PAYS

By William Crozier and Peter Henderson. Just issued. A new work of 400 pages, containing 230 illustrations. Sent postfree for $2.50. Value of Contents is untold

Agents WANTED. PETER HENDERSON & CO., 35 & 37 Cortlandt Street, New York.

dec6-2teow

GRAPE VINES

HEADQUARTERS for NIAGARA, new and old varieties.

The Poet's Corner.

CHRISTMAS.

My little child comes to my knee
And tugging plead is that he may climb
Into my lap to hear me tell
The Christmas tale he loves so well—
A tale my mother told to me,
Beginning "Once upon a time."

It is a tale of skies that rang
With angel rhapsodies sublime;
Of that great host, serene and white,
The shepherds saw one winter night—
And of the glorious stars that sang
An anthem once upon a time.

This story of the hallowed years
Tells of the sacrifice sublime
Of one who prayed alone and wept
While his wearied followers slept—
And how his blood and Mary's tears
Commingled, once upon a time.

And now my darling at my side
And echoes of the distant chime
Bring that sweet story back to me—
Of Bethlehem and Calvary,
And of the gentle Christ that died
For sinners, once upon a time.

The mighty deeds that men have told
In ponderous tomes or fluent rhyme,
Like misty shadows fade away—
But this sweet story bides for aye,
And, like the stars that sang of old,
We sing of "Once upon a time."

Ladies' Department.

A LOST LETTER.

Even prim old Mr. Parchment, the lawyer, succumbed to the enervating influence of the tropical weather, and could not resist the temptation of discarding his coat and waist coat while at work in his private room. To be sure, it was the long vacation, and nearly all his clients were out of town; but he was constantly apprehensive of being discovered in a state of deshabille, and would not have allowed a client to see him without a necktie for the world.

One particularly hot day, when the atmosphere seemed almost suffocating, there came a knock at his door, and as the handle was being turned from the outside he was startled by the sound of a woman's voice and the rustle of a silk gown. Could it be possible that a lady was being ushered in by one of his clerks without any previous warning? Mr. Parchment was perfectly aghast at such impropriety, especially considering the very unprofessional state of his attire. It was evident, however, that this was not a false alarm, and a moment's hesitation would have been fatal. Fortunately, close at hand was a baize screen, concealing a toilet apparatus, and behind this Mr. Parchment rushed with breathless trepidation just as a clerk, followed by a lady, entered the apartment.

'Mr. Parchment must have gone out,' murmured the clerk, after a pause, apparently greatly relieved, having no doubt realized his indiscretion.

'I thought you said he was within,' said the lady, sharply.

'He was a moment ago,' blundered the clerk.

'Then I will wait here,' said the lady, seating herself in the client's chair.

'Perhaps you had better take a seat outside, ma'am,' suggested the clerk.

'I can remain here,' said the lady quietly, as she took up the newspaper.

The clerk lingered a moment, evidently overawed by the lady's manner and ill at ease in his mind, and then slowly disappeared; while Mr. Parchment, behind the screen, gnashed his false teeth with rage. He altogether failed to realize the ludicrous side of the situation, and was conscious only of mingled discomfiture and humiliation. It was out of the question that he should confront the lady in his present state, minus his coat and waistcoat, collarless and cuffless. The alternative was to remain in his hiding place till the visitor's patience was exhausted, although this involved the risk of detection, which would only add to his embarrassment.

To make matters worse, the visitor was the last person in the world he wished to see at any time. She was the wife of Sir Hector Bannister—a hard-drinking baronet, whose family affairs Mr. Parchment had managed for years. Unfortunately, proceedings for a separation, and even for a divorce, were pending between Sir Hector and Lady Bannister, and the lawyer had to bear the brunt of the unpleasantness. Matrimonial controversy was a branch of his business which Mr. Parchment particularly disliked, being a highly respectable, straight-laced old practitioner, and he had neither tact nor confidence in dealing with female clients. He had been worried to death over the unhappy affair already, and feeling no respect or esteem for either of the parties, he would have been delighted to wash his hands of it. He particularly dreaded tete-a-tete interviews with Lady Bannister, for she was a violent-tempered woman of vulgar origin, and Mr. Parchment found it necessary to stand very much on his dignity with her. This made it all the more impossible for him to present himself looking as though he were stripped for a bout of fisticuffs, and for natural primness and old bachelor modesty caused him to feel more nervous and embarrassed every moment.

After a short pause Lady Bannister threw aside the newspaper impatiently and rose to her feet. Mr. Parchment shuddered at the action, for if she should stroll up to the window, he would inevitably be discovered. To his great relief, however, Lady Bannister walked toward the fireplace, no doubt to arrange her bonnet-strings before the looking-glass over the mantel-shelf. But, ere the lawyer had recovered from his first fright, he was seized with a fresh paroxysm of dismay as he remembered that upon his desk there lay open a letter he had received that morning from the lady's husband. Lady Bannister could hardly fail to perceive it if she cast her eyes in that direction, and she would then learn what Mr. Parchment had received such particular instructions to conceal from her—namely, her husband's present address. Sir Hector and Lady Bannister were engaged in a perpetual game of hide-and-seek, the baronet desiring to keep out of his wife's way at all hazards, and she being equally intent upon unearthing him. Mr. Parchment felt it to be his duty to aid the baronet in this respect, the original terms of their separation being that the husband was not under any circumstances to be molested, and the lawyer's attitude on this point was an endless cause of unpleasantness between him and the lady.

Mr. Parchment was so startled at the idea of Lady Bannister seeing her husband's letter that he very nearly rushed out from the screen; but, while he was endeavoring to screw up his courage to that point, the lady suddenly walked toward the door. The lawyer heard her deliver a curt message to the clerks in the outer office, requesting them to tell their master she had called, and before he could realize the fact she was gone.

The lawyer waited until Lady Bannister had had time to reach the street, and then, emerging from his hiding place, he summoned the indiscreet clerk in a furious rage and rated him soundly. While giving vent to his outraged dignity Mr. Parchment was making hay of the papers on his desk in an agitated manner in search of the baronet's letter. He felt a trifle reassured at first upon finding that the document had not been lying conspicuously upon the table. But, upon failing to come across it, the idea suddenly occurred to him that Lady Bannister had carried it off bodily, and when he remembered her abrupt departure, his suspicion seemed confirmed.

'Confound her! She must have it, sure enough,' he growled, throwing himself into his chair with an air of profound vexation. 'There is nothing in it, however—that is one comfort. It was only to give me his new address. She will be after him by the next train. Well, it can't be helped. All I can do is to send a wire to warn him."

Mr. Parchment mechanically took up a telegraph form as he spoke, and seized his pen. The next moment, however, he was confronted by a fresh difficulty. The clerk having disappeared he did not know where to telegraph to. In vain he racked his brains to endeavor to recall the address. The fact was he had barely glanced at it, and a moment's reflection convinced him that for all he remembered the baronet might be located in any part of the kingdom. As ill-luck would have it, the envelope had also disappeared.

The lawyer felt doubly vexed with himself for what had occurred now that it appeared he was unable to put his client on his guard. It was not that he cared so much about having subjected the baronet to the inconvenience of an interview with his wife, for, though Sir Hector's father had been a much respected client, Mr. Parchment felt com pletely indifferent to the son's good opinion. But he was an extremely conscientious old gentleman, and could not acquit himself of having betrayed, though involuntarily, the confidence of a client. It was this disquieting thought which finally induced him, after deliberation, to return Lady Bannister's call, in the hope, at all events, of succeeding in obtaining from her the baronet's address. That he could prevent her from going in search of her husband if she were so minded did not seem the least probable. But he might, at all events, place himself in a position to warn Sir Hector of the pleasure in store for him.

Accordingly Mr. Parchment resumed his ordinary professional appearance and drove straight to Lady Bannister's hotel. Lady Bannister always lived at hotels, and this was another bone of contention between her and the lawyer, the latter having constantly to find fault with her extravagance while representing her husband in the capacity of paymaster. On this occasion, however, it suited Mr. Parchment to appear as cordial as possible, and he even went so far as to express admiration at the rare exotics with which the room was profusely decorated.

'I am glad you admire them, as I am just about to send the bill in to you,' remarked Lady Bannister, who never attempted to conceal her aversion for the lawyer.

'You called upon me just now,' returned Mr. Parchment, ignoring the question of the flower bill.

'Yes; you were out,' said Lady Bannister tritely.

'I happened to be passing, so I thought I would look in,' said Mr. Parchment nervously.

'You are very attentive all of a sudden,' said Lady Bannister with undisguised irony. 'You have brought your check book with you, of course?'

'I shall be writing to Sir Hector, and I thought if you had anything important to communicate—'

'Thank you,' interrupted Lady Bannister, abruptly; 'I can make any communication I wish to make to my husband without your intervention.'

Mr. Parchment thought he perfectly understood this remark and coughed uneasily behind his hand.

'Had you any—any special reason for calling upon me this morning?' he inquired quite at a loss how to proceed.

'I called to inquire,' said Lady Bannister, steadying her voice and speaking with unusual earnestness, 'if there is any prospect of an alteration in Sir Hector's conduct toward me. Am I still to remain the despised and neglected wife that I have been for years past.'

The lady paused abruptly, as though her speech was checked by suppressed emotion. Mr. Parchment shrugged his shoulders and resigned himself to listen to the lady's recital of her wrongs as he had often done before. His demeanor appeared to irritate Lady Bannister, for she proceeded with great volubility to utter sweeping denunciations of her husband's behavior, and was not particular about hurting the feelings of his legal adviser.

When she had finished, Mr. Parchment said dryly: 'I am not aware of any change in Sir Hector's domestic arrangements.'

'No?' cried Lady Bannister; 'then answer me when you next hear news concerning me.'

The lawyer glanced involuntarily at Lady Bannister as she uttered these words. She was a handsome woman, still under 30, with dark eyes and a resolute chin. She met his gaze almost defiantly, and he noticed that her lips were firmly clenched. The look upon her face, in connection with the words which him feel vaguely uneasy, and recalled to his mind that the immediate object of his visit was to seek the means of putting Sir Hector on his guard against being surprised by his wife.

'Are you going a journey?' he hazarded, taking up his hat and pointing with his stick to a bundle of travelling wraps which reposed upon a chair.

'Yes, Mr. Parchment, I am going a journey,' answered Lady Bannister, still speaking in the hard, defiant tone which appeared so significant to the lawyer.

Mr. Parchment confessed to himself that he was no match for Lady Bannister at the best of times, and today she seemed more than usually unapproachable. He therefore rather hastily took his departure, after venturing even to allude to the letter or to Sir Hector's address, but he was nevertheless more than ever impressed with the necessity of communicating with the baronet.

It's my belief she would murder him as soon as look at him,' he thought to himself, as he took his seat in the cab again, after telling the man to drive to Sir Hector's club. 'If anything happened I should never forgive myself. She is just the sort of a woman to blow a man's brains out. I positively must find out that address somehow.'

He was unable, however, to obtain the information at either of the clubs Sir Hector belonged to, and being at his wit's end to know what to do, he finally resolved, in despair, to consult an ex-detective and private inquiry agent named Gimblett, of whose energy and tact he had the highest opinion.

The astute individual rather scoffed at Mr. Parchment's fears, but undertook to watch Lady Bannister's movements for the next few days, and report to the lawyer in case of anything suspicious occurring. Meanwhile Mr. Parchment hoped he would succeed in discovering the missing address, so as to avert any awkward consequences resulting from his remissness.

Greatly relieved by these precautions, Mr. Parchment returned to his office and resumed his day's work with tolerable equanimity. He felt comparatively free from apprehension now that Mr. Gimblett had the matter in hand, and, indeed, he was somewhat inclined to smile at his former uneasiness. But almost before he had time to dismiss the incident from his mind, Mr. Gimblett called and sent in word that his business was urgent. 'Well?' inquired Mr. Parchment, with reviving anxiety, as the detective entered in obedience to his summons.

'I was only just in time, sir,' replied Mr. Gimblett, glancing at his natty figure in the glass, and running his fingers through his neatly brushed grey hair. 'When I arrived at the hotel the cab was driving off.'

'You followed, I suppose?' said the lawyer.

'Yes, sir, I followed, of course. The lady took a ticket for Southampton,' said Mr. Gimblett.

'Southampton,' repeated Mr. Parchment, casting his mind back to the baronet's letter. '—I don't remember, but I think if Sir Hector had written from there the address is so familiar I should have remembered it.'

'I thought you would probably recollect whether it was Southampton or not, sir; until I knew, it seemed hardly worth while making a journey there,' said Mr. Gimblett, quietly.

'Oh! I can't be certain. It might have been there, at all events. If Lady Bannister should surprise her husband——'

'She won't, sir,' said Mr. Gilbert, interrupting the lawyer, who manifested uneasiness; 'I took care of that. I tipped a guard, who is a pal of mine, and he put the lady in to a wrong train. She went by the Exeter express, and can't any way reach Southampton tonight, even if she discovers her mistake and changes at the first stopping place.'

Mr. Parchment did not know whether to smile or to frown at Mr. Gimblett's summary expedient for gaining time for reflection. He was inclined to feel remorseful for the trick that had been played on Lady Bannister, but the detective was evidently a hardened sinner, for he reisted the incident as coolly as though it hed been a perfectly naturel occurrence.

'I'm at your disposal, sir,' he added, as Mr. Parchment remained silent. 'If you have any doubt, I will go down to Southampton, and should Sir Hector be in the neighborhood he shall be warned.'

'Well, I really don't know what to say, said the lawyer, fingering his blotting pad reflectively; and half unconsciously he drew from between the leaves a letter, the end of which had slightly protruded. 'Bless my soul, what is this?' he exclaimed, suddenly turning as red as a turkey cock, and staring at the piece of paper as though it had been bewitched.

'The letter, I suppose, sir,' said Mr. Gimblett, quietly.

'Yes; and the address isn't Southampton, or anywhere near it,' cried Mr. Parchment, looking the picture of discomfiture.

'Well, sir, there is no harm done, anyway,' said Mr. Gimblett, reassuringly, after an awkward pause. 'I will say good day, sir.'

The detective took his departure, leaving Mr. Parchment aghast at his own stupidity, and decidedly conscience stricken with reference to Lady Bannister. It was so eminently satisfactory, however, to find that, after all, he had betrayed no professional confidences, that he easily forgave himself for his oversight. For the rest, when Mr. Parchment came to think the whole affair quietly over from beginning to end, while enjoying his wine after dinner, he chuckled heartily, and began to reflect how he could tell the story as having happened to somebody else at his next dinner party.

The following morning, by a strange coincidence, his first visitor at the office was Sir Hector himself. The baronet looked preternaturally solemn, and was particularly careful to close the door behind him.

'A very painful thing has happened, Mr. Parchment,' he said, when they had exchanged greetings. 'My lady has bolted.'

'Nonsense!' exclaimed Mr. Parchment, with uncomfortable forebodings.

'Yes, she went yesterday evening to Southampton, on the invitation of that scoundrel, Holgate, and they have no doubt sailed off in his yacht by this time. She made no secret of her intention, and told her maid. That settles the matter, Parchment, and we must apply for a divorce at once,' said Sir Hector, displaying considerable more excitement than tender emotion.

'I think you have been misinformed,' remarked the lawyer smilingly.

'My man had a telegram from Lady Bannister's maid yesterday evening,' said the baronet, reddening as he spoke.

'Indeed,' said the lawyer, raising his eyebrows and looking his client in the face. 'I was unaware that you had caused your wife to be spied upon. You may recollect that I said I would have nothing to do with that sort of thing.'

'I suppose I can do as I please,' blustered Sir Hector.

'However,' continued the lawyer, ignoring the other's tone. 'I am glad to inform you that there is yet time to save your wife from disgracing your name. Lady Bannister did not go to Southampton last night, so by traveling down there by the next train you may possibly arrive in time.'

'What for? Do you think I would be such a fool as to stop her?' said the baronet, with a coarse laugh. 'Besides, I tell you she did go to Southampton last night, and Holgate's yacht sailed early this morning.'

'Then Lady Bannister was not on board her, returned the lawyer, almost exultantly, and he proceeded to give a hurried account of the events of the preceding day.

'Why, you've been and spoilt everything!' roared Sir Hector, after digesting the lawyer's story, with a countenance full of dismay.

'In it possible, Sir Hector,' began Mr. Parchment, in a tone of indignant amazement; 'is it possible that you have tacitly connived at the intended elopement of your wife?'

'Confound you, sir; don't lecture me!' interrupted the baronet, in a furious rage. 'If Lady Bannister had gone off with Holgate it would have been a devilish good thing for all parties.'

'You must pardon me, Sir Hector,' said the lawyer, with his loftiest air, 'for saying that after that remark I can no longer continue to act for you.'

'Oh! very well,' returned the baronet, looking a little shamefaced. 'Of course, what has passed between us was in strict confidence.'

Mr. Parchment did not deign to reply to this, and Sir Hector departed without vouchsafing a farewell salutation. The lawyer was a good deal upset by the scene, and, for awhile, was too much agitated to reflect calmly upon the interview.

'Well, I am glad it has come to this, after all,' he murmured, after a pause. 'I was bound to quarrel with him sooner or later. As the saying is,' he added, as he passed his handkerchief across his heated brow, 'there is no doubt i've made a fool of myself over this business. I suppose it must be the weather.'—[London Truth.

SO SHE REFUSED HIM.

[Boston Transcript.]

Last night, within the little curtained room,
Where the gay music sounded faintly clear,
And silver lights came stealing through the gloom,
You told the tale that women love to hear;
You told it well, with firm hands clasping mine
And deep eyes glowing with a tender light.
Mere acting? But your prayer was half divine
Last night.

Ah, you had much to offer, wealth enough
To gild the future, and a path of ease
For one whose way is somewhat dark and rough;
New friends—life calm as summer seas,
And something (was it love?) to keep us true
And make us precious in each other's sight.
Ah, then, indeed, my heart's resolve I knew,
Last night.

Let the world go, with all its dross and pelf!
Only for one, like Portia, could I say,
"I would be trebled twenty times myself;"
Only for one, and he is far away;
His voice came back to me, distinct and dear,
And thrilled me with the pain of lost delight
The present faded, but the past was clear,
Last night.

If others answered as I answered then,
We would hear less, perchance, of blighted lives;
There would be truer women, nobler men,
And fewer dreary homes and faithless wives;
Because I could not give you all my best,
I gave you nothing. Judge me—was I right?
You may thank Heaven that I stood the test
Last night.

MISS SCAMPER.

HOW DIDYMUS DODD MARRIED AN HEIRESS.

(Thomas Dunn English in Harper's Bazar.)

None at the Rappaquah sulphur springs knew who Miss Scamper was and few cared to know. She came with an old gentleman, who registered the pair as 'S. Scamper and granddaughter, New York city.' They had no servants with them. The old man wore a suit of rather rusty black, and his trunk, an antique leathern conveniency, bore the letters S. S. in brass-headed nails. The young woman's trunk—she had but one—was large enough, and of modern make, but it was apparently not well filled, since she had shown but three dresses all the three weeks she had remained. One of these, of rich material, she wore of evenings; the other two, of some washable material, were worn alternately in daytime. She had no jewelry beyond a plain gold brooch. One of the eligible young men there said that 'that Scamper has one Sunday go-to-meetin' and two work-day suits,' for which his neighbor should have kicked him, but didn't. The eligible young man was looking for an eligible mate in the person of Miss Bolsover, the great heiress, whom the society paper had said was coming to the Rappaquah: though, as she hadn't come, the Bernese young man of the society paper labored under a delusion. The match-making dowagers did not fear this modest, pretty and well-cultured young woman, for the gilded youth who were also lying in wait for Miss Bolsover, much more gilded, did not dangle in her train. Indeed, she had no train. Her business was to look after her poor old grandfather, who was not in good health, and with whom the waters seemed to agree. Didymus Dodd, who had scraped an acquaintance with old Scamper, as the fellows irreverently called him, seemed to be her admirer; but Didymus was nobody. He was well-made, tall; handsome, and of good address; but he was only an upper clerk in a Philadelphia insurance company. To be sure, he would be superintendent after January, vice Higgins, retired and superannuated, and would then draw a salary of five thousand a year. But no one knew that, and the possible good fortune to poor Miss Scamper; and had they known, five thousand a year was no great matter. So the field was left to Miss Scamper and welcome.

Didymus only began paying attentions to Miss Scamper out of courtesy, and because no one else did; but the more he saw of her the more he liked her, and it ended in his being badly hit. As he and she were the only impecunious people at the old-fashioned resort—the other visitors counting their dollars well up in the hundred thousands—the matter attracted their attention, and by way of getting both out of the way of marriageable sons and daughters, scheming mothers lent the affair all the quiet encouragement possible. And this passed into a more active nature from two little incidents that occurred about ten days before the end of the two months' vacation of Didymus.'

There was a Mrs. De Nyse at the Springs, who was well known as an amateur vocalist of merit, and whose voice, though a little ready in the upper notes, had been trained so well as to make her worth hearing. One evening when a few were in the parlors her friends besought her to favor them, and so on, and she expressed her readiness, but there happened to be no accompanist. Miss Scamper, who was chatting near by with Didymus, looked up, and quietly said, 'Perhaps I can serve you that way, Mrs. De Nyse.'

'Can you play at sight, Miss Scamper?' inquired Mrs. De Nyse.

Miss Scamper nodded assent and seated herself at the piano-forte, and accompanied the voice with such good judgment that the singer was delighted.

'I wish I could carry you about with me, my dear,' she said. 'But do you not sing? You surely must.'

'A little.'

Urged by all around, Miss Scamper, to her own accompaniment, sang an aria from Il Trovatore. Her voice proved to be a rich soprano, of full register, clear as a silver bell, and admirably cultivated. There was a moment's pause when she had done, as though not to lose a note, and then a storm of applause.

Here was a sensation. Everybody talked of her method, and the gilded youth were in raptures. The mammas conferred and concluded that Miss Scamper was a member of some church choir or attached to some English opera troupe, who knew? But they were civil. There was a party going over to Almont, Col. Parsifall's place, next day. Would she go? She assented. Didymus said to her in a low voice:—

'It is a riding party, Miss Scamper. I know the best horse in the livery stable here, and if you'll permit me, I'll secure it for you.'

To which she replied in the same tone: 'Thank you, Mr. Dodd, you are very kind; but I have one at command already. Get that for yourself.'

Somewhat rebuffed, Didymus colored, but she added, 'Mine shall not disgrace you,' which was a distinct intimation that she expected him as escort. The spirits of Didymus rose from zero to blood-heat.

The next morning, as the riders were ready to start, a groom, known to be one of Col. Parsifall's, rode up leading a magnificent blooded bay horse, equipped with a side-saddle. As they were admiring the animal, Miss Scamper, in a neat riding habit, made her appearance. The groom took off his hat. Didymus, not a little astonished, put forth his hand, and the lady vaulted to the back of the horse with easy grace. The cavalcade set out, Miss Scamper and Didymus together, and being better mounted than the others, were soon at the head of the column.

About a mile away from the Springs there was a bar in the way. A lofty tulip tree had been blown down during the night, and had fallen across the road, the trunk well up on account of the wide roots. Some one had already cleared a way by letting down fences on the roadside; but Miss Scamper did not go around with the rest. She faced the trunk, the horse went over, and then trotted on. Didymus faced it too. His horse got over, but half stumbled. Didymus was country bred, and had ridden horses to mill barebacked, and was a half centaur when a boy; so he brought his horse up.

Miss Scamper smiled approvingly.

Everybody admired the ease and grace with which Miss Scamper managed her horse, and Didymus more than everybody.

When they arrived at their destination the party dispersed in the house and over the grounds. They found old Scamper there. He had gone over before in a carryall. Almont was the property of Colonel Almont, and was for sale, with its fine blooded stock of horses and cattle, its furniture, its library, and everything in the house and around it. The colonel and his family were in Europe, and intended to stay there while he educated his sons at Heidelberg. So he offered the whole—a house that cost $130,000, with all its offices of all kinds, stables, palmery, grapery and greenhouses, furniture made to order, and over 1200 acres of land in a high state of cultivation—for, as he said in his letter, 'a mere song.' So it was; but as it was set to the tune of $300,000, there were few who could render the music.

They all admired the place. The agent, who was there, seized on the Scampers and Didymus, to whom he showed everything and explained everything. Didymus was amused at this, and whispered to Miss Scamper, 'He has picked out the only three who could certainly not buy it.' Miss Scamper, by the twinkle in her eyes, evidently appreciated the fun of the situation. Then the agent seized old Scamper and dragged him off to look at the blood horses and imported cattle, leaving Didymus and the girl together.

'How do you like the place, Mr. Dodd?' inquired she.

'Like it, Miss Scamper! Why, it's a garden of Eden; that is, it would be so to me, if I had it with an Eve in it.'

The young lady smiled, and said, 'You like country life then, Mr. Dodd?'

'Naturally,' replied Didymus. 'I lived in the country until I was 22. I was born and bred there. I should have been there yet—but for the death of both my parents. I went to the city in search of fortune. I have done very little for the last seven years, and have put a little by; but to cover a place like this is like wishing for the moon.'

'The country is the place to live in, and the city to work in,' said Miss Scamper, sententiously.

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Then they discussed on rural topics, with a marvelous unity of sentiment, until the venerable Scamper and the agent got back, which was at the time the whole party, each with a nosegay furnished by the gardener from the greenhouses, was ready for a return to the springs.

There were yet two days of the young man's vacation left, when he determined to place his fate at Miss Scamper's disposal at the first opportunity. The chance came that very night. That evening a number were seated on the veranda enjoying the moonlight. Miss Scamper sat apart from the rest in a heavy shadow with her grandfather. The old gentleman rose when Dodd came, and left. Miss Scamper made room for Didymus at her side, and the two began to talk of the day's doings.

'By the by,' said Didymus, 'have you heard that Almont has been sold?'

'Yes.'

'And to the great heiress, Miss Bolsover. I wonder if she will keep old maid's hall there?'

Miss Scamper laughed a low, silvery laugh. 'I presume she will,' she said, 'unless she has a chance to marry. Wasn't that a sad accident at the mill today?'

'Very. The man has a wife and five children. I went over to see how they were—was in large enough, and of modern make, but it was apparently not well filled, since she had shown but three dresses all the three weeks she had remained. One of these, of rich material, she wore of evenings; the other two, of some washable material, were worn alternately in daytime. She had no jewelry beyond a plain gold brooch. One of the eligible young men there said that 'that Scamper has one Sunday go to-meetin' and two work-day suits,' for which his neighbor should have kicked him, but didn't. The eligible young man was looking for an eligible mate in the person of Miss Bolsover, the great heiress, whom the society paper had said was coming to the Rappaquah: though, as she hadn't come, the Bernese young man of the society paper labored under a delusion. The match-making dowagers did not fear this modest, pretty and well-cultured young woman, for the gilded youth who were also lying in wait for Miss Bolsover, much more gilded, did not dangle in her train. Indeed, she had no train. Her business was to look after her poor old grandfather, who was not in good health, and with whom the waters seemed to agree. Didymus Dodd, who had scraped an acquaintance with old Scamper, as the fellows irreverently called him, seemed to be her admirer; but Didymus was nobody. He was well-made, tall; handsome, and of good address; but he was only an upper clerk in a Philadelphia insurance company. To be sure, he would be superintendent after January, vice Higgins, retired and superannuated, and would then draw a salary of five thousand a year. But no one knew that, and the possible good fortune to poor Miss Scamper; and had they known, five thousand a year was no great matter. So the field was left to Miss Scamper and welcome.

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'And to the great heiress, Miss Bolsover. I wonder if she will keep old maid's hall there?'

Miss Scamper laughed a low, silvery laugh. 'I presume she will,' she said, 'unless she has a chance to marry. Wasn't that a sad accident at the mill today?'

'Very. The man has a wife and five children. I went over to see how they were—was in a large enough, and of modern make, but it was apparently not well filled, since she had shown but three dresses all the three weeks she had remained. One of these, of rich material, she wore of evenings; the other two, of some washable material, were worn alternately in daytime. She had no jewelry beyond a plain gold brooch. One of the eligible young men there said that 'that Scamper has one Sunday go to-meetin' and two work-day suits,' for which his neighbor should have kicked him, but didn't. The eligible young man was looking for an eligible mate in the person of Miss Bolsover, the great heiress, whom the society paper had said was coming to the Rappaquah: though, as she hadn't come, the Bernese young man of the society paper labored under a delusion. The match-making dowagers did not fear this modest, pretty and well-cultured young woman, for the gilded youth who were also lying in wait for Miss Bolsover, much more gilded, did not dangle in her train. Indeed, she had no train. Her business was to look after her poor old grandfather, who was not in good health, and with whom the waters seemed to agree. Didymus Dodd, who had scraped an acquaintance with old Scamper, as the fellows irreverently called him, seemed to be her admirer; but Didymus was nobody. He was well-made, tall; handsome, and of good address; but he was only an upper clerk in a Philadelphia insurance company. To be sure, he would be superintendent after January, vice Higgins, retired and superannuated, and would then draw a salary of five thousand a year. But no one knew that, and the possible good fortune to poor Miss Scamper; and had they known, five thousand a year was no great matter. So the field was left to Miss Scamper and welcome.

Didymus only began paying attentions to Miss Scamper out of courtesy, and because no one else did; but the more he saw of her the more he liked her, and it ended in his being badly hit. As he and she were the only impecunious people at the old-fashioned resort—the other visitors counting their dollars well up in the hundred thousands—the matter attracted their attention, and by way of getting both out of the way of marriageable sons and daughters, scheming mothers lent the affair all the quiet encouragement possible. And this passed into a more active nature from two little incidents that occurred about ten days before the end of the two months' vacation of Didymus.'

There was a Mrs. De Nyse at the Springs, who was well known as an amateur vocalist of merit, and whose voice, though a little ready in the upper notes, had been trained so well as to make her worth hearing. One evening when a few were in the parlors her friends besought her to favor them, and so on, and she expressed her readiness, but there happened to be no accompanist. Miss Scamper, who was chatting near by with Didymus, looked up, and quietly said, 'Perhaps I can serve you that way, Mrs. De Nyse.'

'Can you play at sight, Miss Scamper?' inquired Mrs. De Nyse.

Miss Scamper nodded assent and seated herself at the piano-forte, and accompanied the voice with such good judgment that the singer was delighted.

'I wish I could carry you about with me, my dear,' she said. 'But do you not sing? You surely must.'

'A little.'

Urged by all around, Miss Scamper, to her own accompaniment, sang an aria from Il Trovatore. Her voice proved to be a rich soprano, of full register, clear as a silver bell, and admirably cultivated. There was a moment's pause when she had done, as though not to lose a note, and then a storm of applause.

Here was a sensation. Everybody talked of her method, and the gilded youth were in raptures. The mammas conferred and concluded that Miss Scamper was a member of some church choir or attached to some English opera troupe, who knew? But they were civil. There was a party going over to Almont, Col. Parsifall's place, next day. Would she go? She assented. Didymus said to her in a low voice:—

'It is a riding party, Miss Scamper. I know the best horse in the livery stable here, and if you'll permit me, I'll secure it for you.'

To which she replied in the same tone: 'Thank you, Mr. Dodd, you are very kind; but I have one at command already. Get that for yourself.'

Somewhat rebuffed, Didymus colored, but she added, 'Mine shall not disgrace you,' which was a distinct intimation that she expected him as escort. The spirits of Didymus rose from zero to blood-heat.

The next morning, as the riders were ready to start, a groom, known to be one of Col. Parsifall's, rode up leading a magnificent blooded bay horse, equipped with a side-saddle. As they were admiring the animal, Miss Scamper, in a neat riding habit, made her appearance. The groom took off his hat. Didymus, not a little astonished, put forth his hand, and the lady vaulted to the back of the horse with easy grace. The cavalcade set out, Miss Scamper and Didymus together, and being better mounted than the others, were soon at the head of the column.

About a mile away from the Springs there was a bar in the way. A lofty tulip tree had been blown down during the night, and had fallen across the road, the trunk well up on account of the wide roots. Some one had already cleared a way by letting down fences on the roadside; but Miss Scamper did not go around with the rest. She faced the trunk, the horse went over, and then trotted on. Didymus faced it too. His horse got over, but half stumbled. Didymus was country bred, and had ridden horses to mill barebacked, and was a half centaur when a boy; so he brought his horse up.

Miss Scamper smiled approvingly.

Everybody admired the ease and grace with which Miss Scamper managed her horse, and Didymus more than everybody.

When they arrived at their destination the party dispersed in the house and over the grounds. They found old Scamper there. He had gone over before in a carryall. Almont was the property of Colonel Almont, and was for sale, with its fine blooded stock of horses and cattle, its furniture, its library, and everything in the house and around it. The colonel and his family were in Europe, and intended to stay there while he educated his sons at Heidelberg. So he offered the whole—a house that cost $130,000, with all its offices of all kinds, stables, palmery, grapery and greenhouses, furniture made to order, and over 1200 acres of land in a high state of cultivation—for, as he said in his letter, 'a mere song.' So it was; but as it was set to the tune of $300,000, there were